a direction of the day after t

BLADE COMICS

あさっての方向。
a direction of the day after tomorrow
5

山田J太

Mag GARDEN

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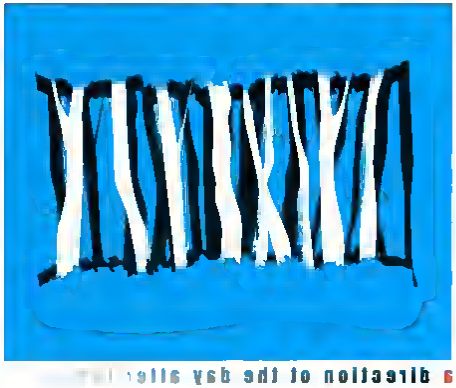

J-ta Yamada

山田J太

山田J太です。
5巻目です、最終巻です。
4年弱、お付き合いありがとうございました！
またどこかでお会いできますよう。

Comment

arienai Presents
the final volume of
asatte no houhou

translator. shironuro
editor. imaniyama
raw. magrana
proof. amtt

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dedicated editors, and
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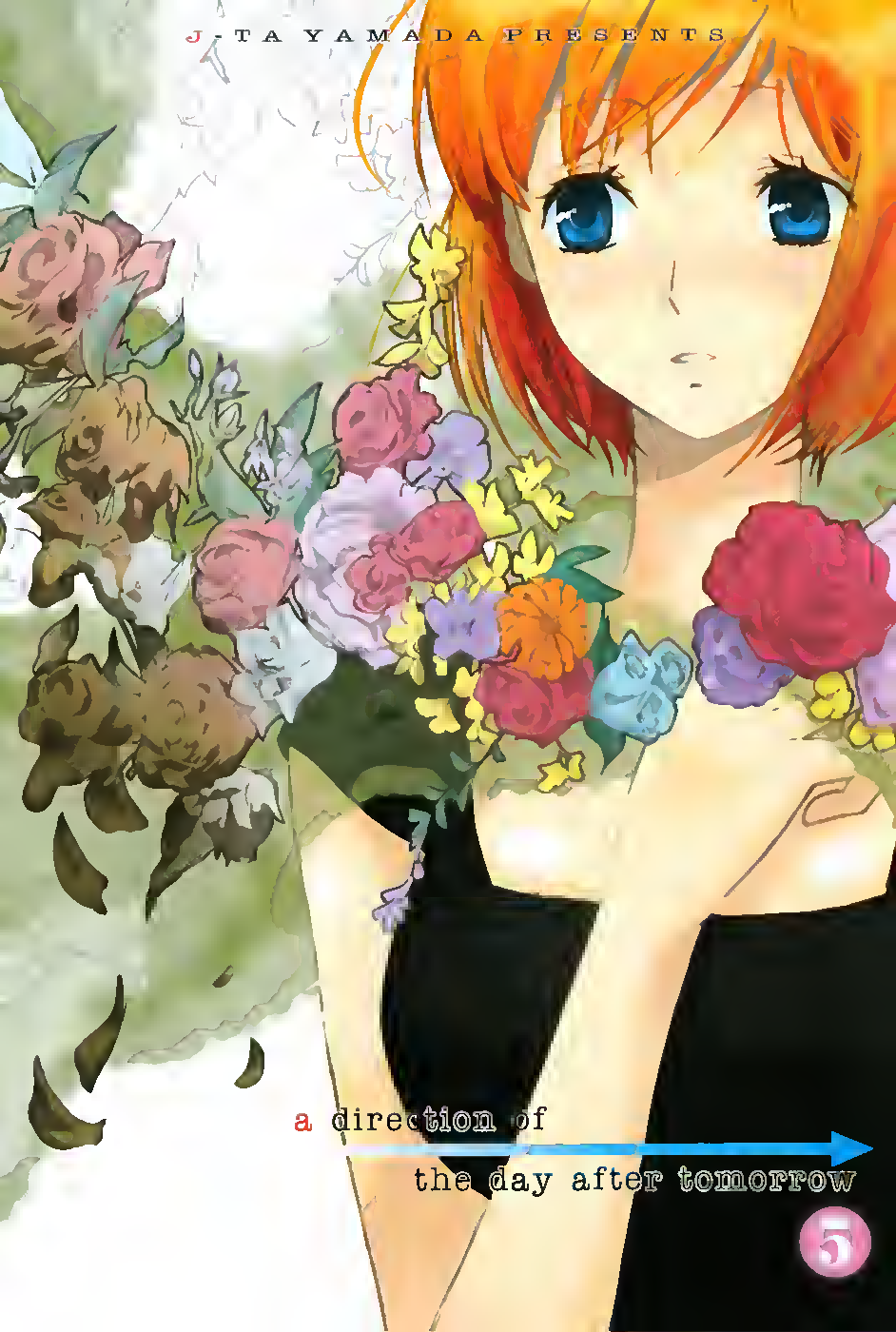
J-TA YAMADA PRESENTS



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C/O/N/T/E/N/T/S

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番外編「山神塚」 161

Chapter 18

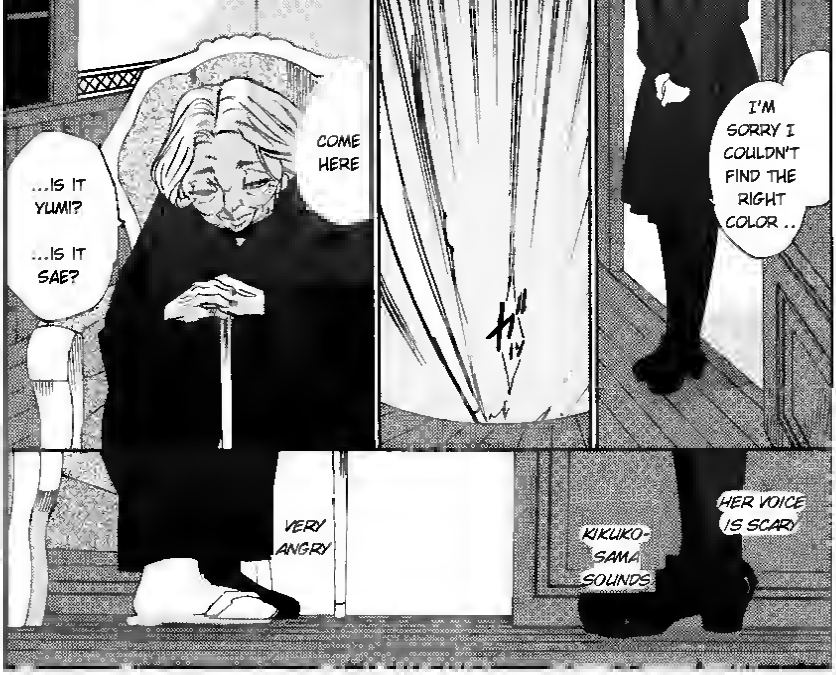
A TASK ASSIGNED TO ME BY KIKUKO-SAMA
I TOLD YOU THIS WAS
IT DOESN'T COUNT AS BETRAYAL RIGHT?
YEAH...
I GUESS IT DOESN'T
HEY...
YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK?

ABOUT THE SEARCH FOR THE WISHING STONE...
YOU KNOW HOW KIKUKO-SAMA DOESN'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN?
DON'T YOU THINK THIS "WISHING STONE SEARCH" IS A "SEARCH FOR A HEIR"...SINCE SWITCHING PLACES WITH HER MEANS WE GET TO INHERIT HER FORTUNES
BECAUSE... "PERSONNEL TO SWITCH AGES WITH HER" IS ..HEHE!
YOU THINK SO..?
IN ANY CASE, NOTHING BAD CAN COME OUT OF BEING HER FAVORITE!
SEE YA
NEESAN!
WHAT?
IT'S DANGEROUS TO RUN SO..BE CAREFUL

..I'LL BE FINE!

"BE CAREFUL"!?
I'M FINE, MY LEG IS ALL BETTER
I HAVE TO DO MY JOB RIGHT
OR ELSE

YUMI!
SAE!
YES
I'LL GET IN TROUBLE AGAIN!
WHERE'S THE FLOWER...?


...IS IT YUMI?
...IS IT SAE?
COME HERE
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T FIND THE RIGHT COLOR ..
VERY ANGRY
KIKUKO-SAMA SOUNDS
HER VOICE IS SCARY

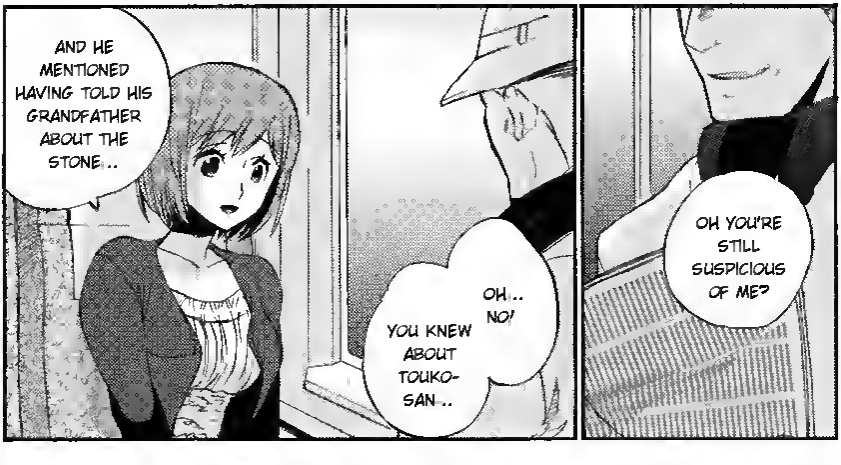
SO THAT'S WHY I
IT'S ..
YUMI

I HATE LIARS...
YOU SNEAKY LITTLE GIRL!
I'M SORRY
THERE WERE ONLY RED FLOWERS!
LYING IS BAD
IT'S SAE!!
!
SO FRIGHT-ENING ...
SO HORRE-NDOUS ...!!

THE USELESS WILL BE DISPOSED OF...
IT WASN'T A BETRAYAL I WAS JUST TRYING TO BALANCE IT OUT
OR ELSE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO BE TOGETHER ANYMORE...
I COULDN'T HEAR VERY WELL BECAUSE OF THE TRAIN...
BUT SHE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THE STONE BEING IN DANGER
SO SHE'D HEAD TO YOUR HOUSE BEFORE ME...

I TOLD YOU!
I DIDN'T CALL HER!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD HAVE!
BASED ON THE DEPARTURE TIME, SHE'LL ARRIVE THERE AT 3:15
I HEARD THE ANNOUNCE-MENT
WAIT FOR HER AT THE STATION
...IT SOUNDED LIKE SOMEONE WAS WITH HER
ANY IDEAS?
NONE!!
ANYWAY, WHICH STATION!?

UM...
YOU ARE AMINO-KUN'S FATHER ...RIGHT?

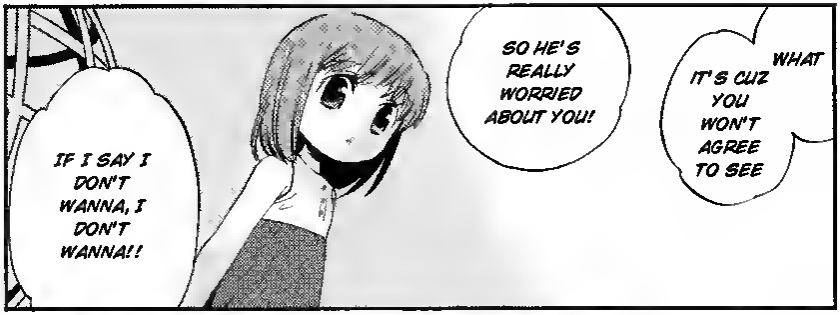

AND HE MENTIONED HAVING TOLD HIS GRANDFATHER ABOUT THE STONE..
OH.. NO! YOU KNEW ABOUT TOUKO-SAN..
OH YOU'RE STILL SUSPICIOUS OF ME?

SO I WAS SHOCKED..
I JUST DIDN'T EXPECT ANYONE TO BELIEVE SUCH A STORY...

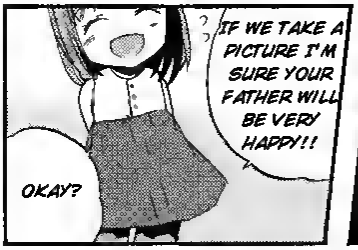
YES...
YES
YES!
THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU SWITCHED AGES WITH SOMEONE BECAUSE OF THE "STONE"
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH..
THE VIEW...
IS STARTING TO LOOK FAMILIAR..
HEEEY
TETSU!

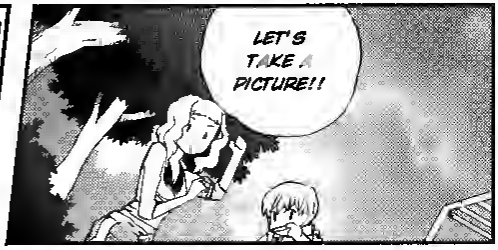
GEEEH
YOUR SISTER IS CALLING FOR YOU
AMINO-KUN AMINO-KUN
TETSU!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
NO
NO..!
YES!
OHHHH
YOU'RE WITH KARADA-CHAN
YOU GUYS ARE CLOSE
I'LL TAKE A PICTURE OF YOU TWO

NOT YEAH YEAH!
I WON'T LET YOU! I'LL MAKE A FUNNY FACE!!
UGHH COME ON!
HAHA FUNNY FACE
ほれ わらって わらって
YEAH YEAH
COME ON COME ON
WHY?
SO SUDDEN!
IF I TELL YOU WHY WILL YOU LET ME..?
UH..
YEAH
へんなかお～
YOU BRAT!
I'LL MAKE AN UGLIER FACE!
むにょ
IT'S FOR DADDY
PROMISE?
YEAH!


IF I SAY I DON'T WANNA, I DON'T WANNA!!
SO HE'S REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
WHAT
IT'S CUZ YOU WON'T AGREE TO SEE

AMINO-KUN
AMINO-KUN

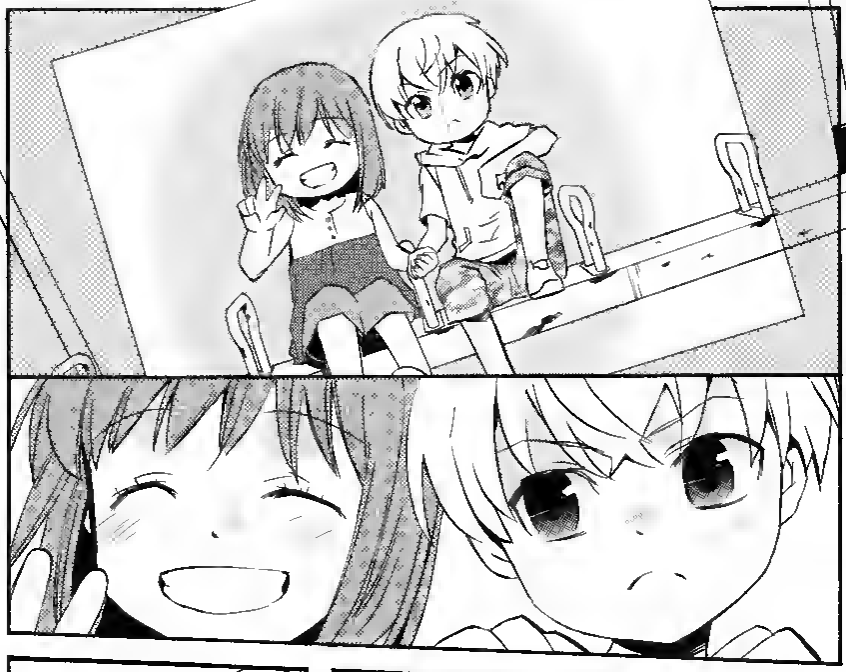

IF WE TAKE A PICTURE I'M SURE YOUR FATHER WILL BE VERY HAPPY!!
OKAY?


LET'S TAKE A PICTURE!!

OH...
YEAH...

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT GUY ANYWAY...
AD/N!

LET'S TAKE A PICTURE
OKAY?
ARE YOU OKAY?
IOKAWA..
SHE'S ALL ALONE WITH HER BROTHER..
FINE
...
BUT UNDER ONE CONDITION
HUH!? YOU'RE STILL MAKING EXCUSES..
SHE'S A LITTLE TALLER
LET'S TAKE IT BY SITTING UP THERE!!
OKAY HERE GOES!
OH HIS PRIDE..


MY MAKE-UP IS TOO MUCH TODAY
OH IT'S OKAY
A PHONE CAMERA TAKES A BETTER PICTURE AND I CAN CHANGE THINGS WITH THE HIGHLIGHT AND..
??
WHAT! WHERE'S YOUR SMILE?
OH WELL
I CAN TAKE A PICTURE OF YOU TWO!
I'LL GET THIS DEVELOPED AND SEND IT
I BET HE'LL BE SO HAPPY! I KNOW IT!
TOUKO-SAN ALWAYS SAID YOU WERE SO HAPPY AND
KEPT IT IN YOUR WALLET ALL THE TIME

I'M SO NOSTALGIC...
CAN I SEE IT AGAIN? THE PICTURE!!
IT'S HER..

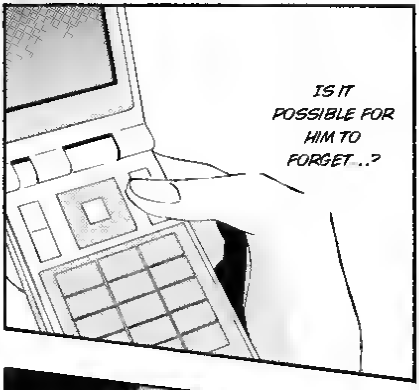
HERE
I ONLY HAVE ONE!
.....
YOUR KNEE IS BLEEDING
UHHH ...
GIRL THAT ATE THE ROCK!?
I TRIPPED
LEAVE ME ALONE

I SAW YOU TWO
I HAVE TO RUN BUT
DO YOU WANT ME TO CALL SASAZUKA-SENPAI OR
IT'S NOT JUST YOUR KNEE
GO TO THE HOSPITAL!
I SAID I'M FINE
AND I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW
...!
I BET HE'LL COME RUNNING?
OH .. THIS IS AN OLD SCAR

I HAVE TO GO PICK UP A VERY IMPORTANT GUEST
HMMM OKAY WHATEVER
I HAVE TO GO
THE ONE YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT...
IS YUMI
SHOUKO -SAN I'M HERE
I SHOULD WAIT HERE RIGHT!?

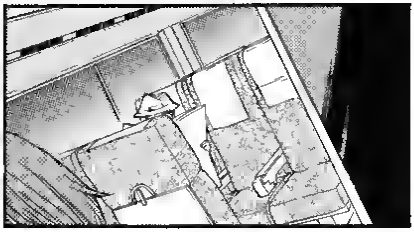
I CAN SEE
WHY IS SHE ALWAYS .. MAKING ME WORRY ..
HER
AGAIN
I REALLY WANT TO SEE HER
BUT I'M REALLY SCARED TO SEE HER

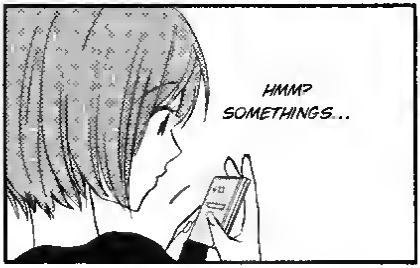
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ..
I'M HAPPY AND SCARED TO SEE HER
WILL IOK -AWA
WILL I BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO HER PROPERLY?
STILL SPEAK TO ME?
OH ..
REALLY ..?
BUT I USUALLY ALWAYS CARRY IT AROUND ..
OH ..I DON'T HAVE IT
I COINCID- ENTALLY FORGOT IT


IS IT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO FORGET ..?

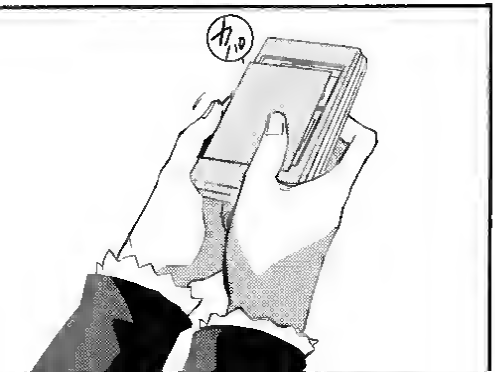
I'M GOING TO MAKE ANOTHER PHONE CALL
MAYBE I'LL HAVE ENOUGH BATTERY TO SEND AN EMAIL...
UMM ...

TOUKO-SAN SAID "HE ALWAYS HAS THE PICTURE"




HMM? SOMETHINGS...

THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN CALL ANYONE



IT'S RESTRICTED TO USE YOUR PHONE IN THE TRAIN
OH I'M SORRY
HUH?
THERE'S NO BATTERY

SOMEONE SHOULD BE WAITING FOR US THERE
IT'S NOT AMINO-KUN'S FATHER
IT'S A STRANGER
I HAVE TO ESCAPE
WHAT SHOULD I DO
I CAN'T SPEAK
WE'RE ALMOST THERE
LET'S GET OFF

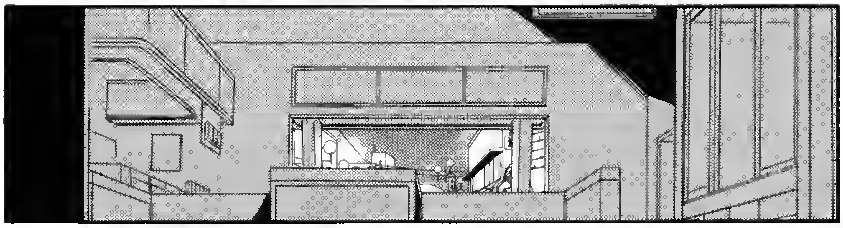
PLEASE STEP BACK BEHIND THE WHITE LINE
THE TRAIN IS ARRI-VING
タン
ガタタン

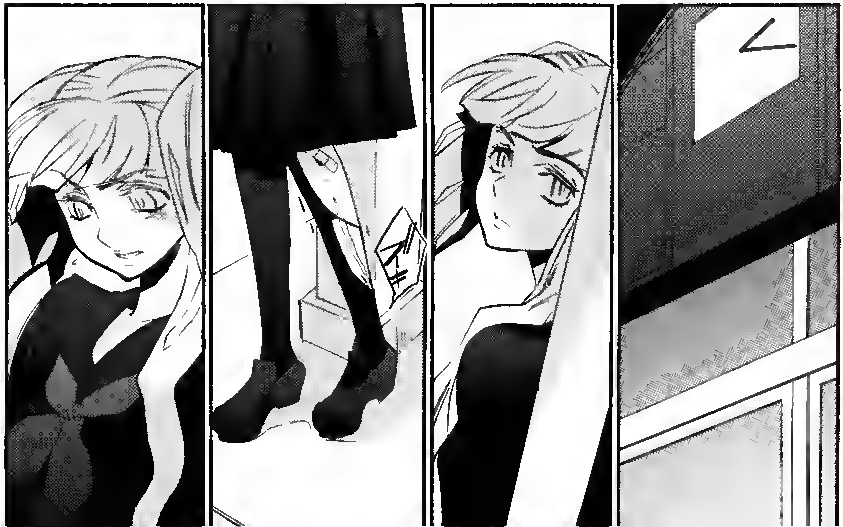
ガタン
ゴトン

AMINO
...
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!
IOKAWA!?
IOKAWA!
THE TRAIN IS NOW LEAVING THE STATION
ARE YOU OKAY!? IOKAWA!

I KNOW I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM FOR A WHILE BUT THAT'S NOT HIM!
STUPID!
HE'S NOT!
HE...
HE SAID HE WAS YOUR FATHER...
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT THAT EITHER
WHY DID YOU BELIEVE IT!!
HE SAID... THE STONE IS TURNING INTO ASH...
WAIT, THAT GUY...
I'VE SEEN HIM ONCE BEFORE ...
HUH? WAS SOMEONE HERE?
ANY-WAY ... COME WITH ME...
LET'S GO BACK ONE STATION ...
AND TAKE THE BUS

I HAVE A FEELING WE SHOULDN'T GET OFF HERE
I HAVE TO GO PICK UP A VERY IMPORTANT GUEST



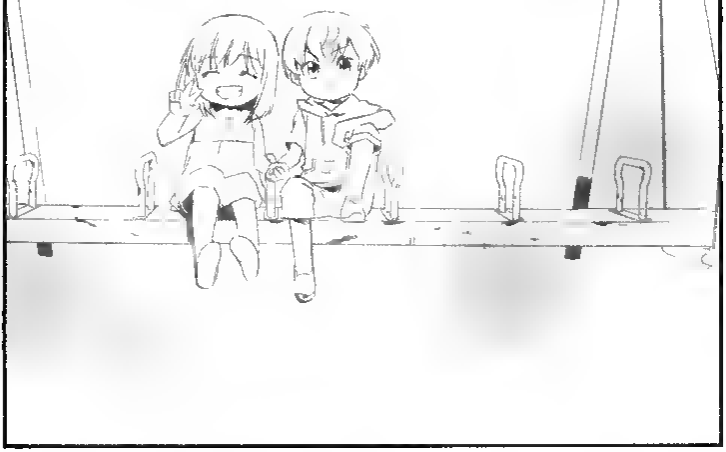


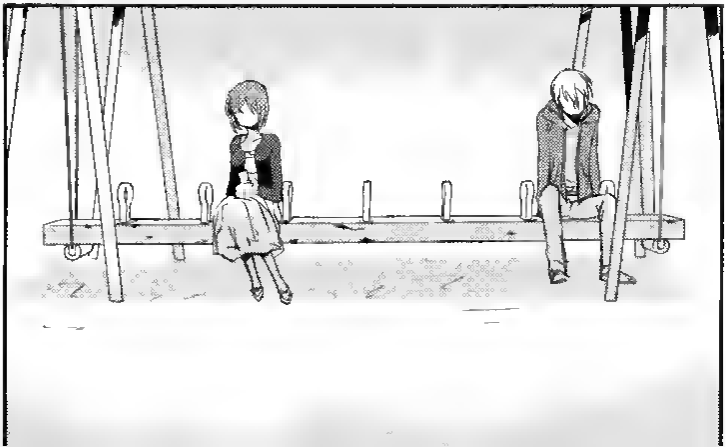
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY BUT...INSTEAD OF GOING STRAIGHT TO MY HOUSE
I THINK WE SHOULD WAIT FOR SHOUKO-SAN AND YOUR BROTHER
THEY'RE HEADED THIS WAY TOO...

WE USED TO SPLIT OUR ICE CREAM HERE A LOT
IOKAWA
IT'S KIND OF... NOSTALGIC
IS TALKING TO ME
NOSTALGIC? IT WAS THIS SUMMER
IT WASN'T VERY LONG AGO...
...YOU'RE RIGHT
LIKE BEFORE
ISN'T SHE...?
UM..

CAN I BORROW YOUR PHONE? I CAN'T USE MINE...
AND I HAVE TO CONTACT HIRO-NII..
OH...
YEAH
AH ...

I'M SORRY...
I CALLED... SHOUKO-SAN EARLIER...
SO YOU CAN JUST HIT REDIAL





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ASATTE NO HOUKOU
BY YAMADA J-TA
CH.19

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editor: tsutsuihou (Today's After)

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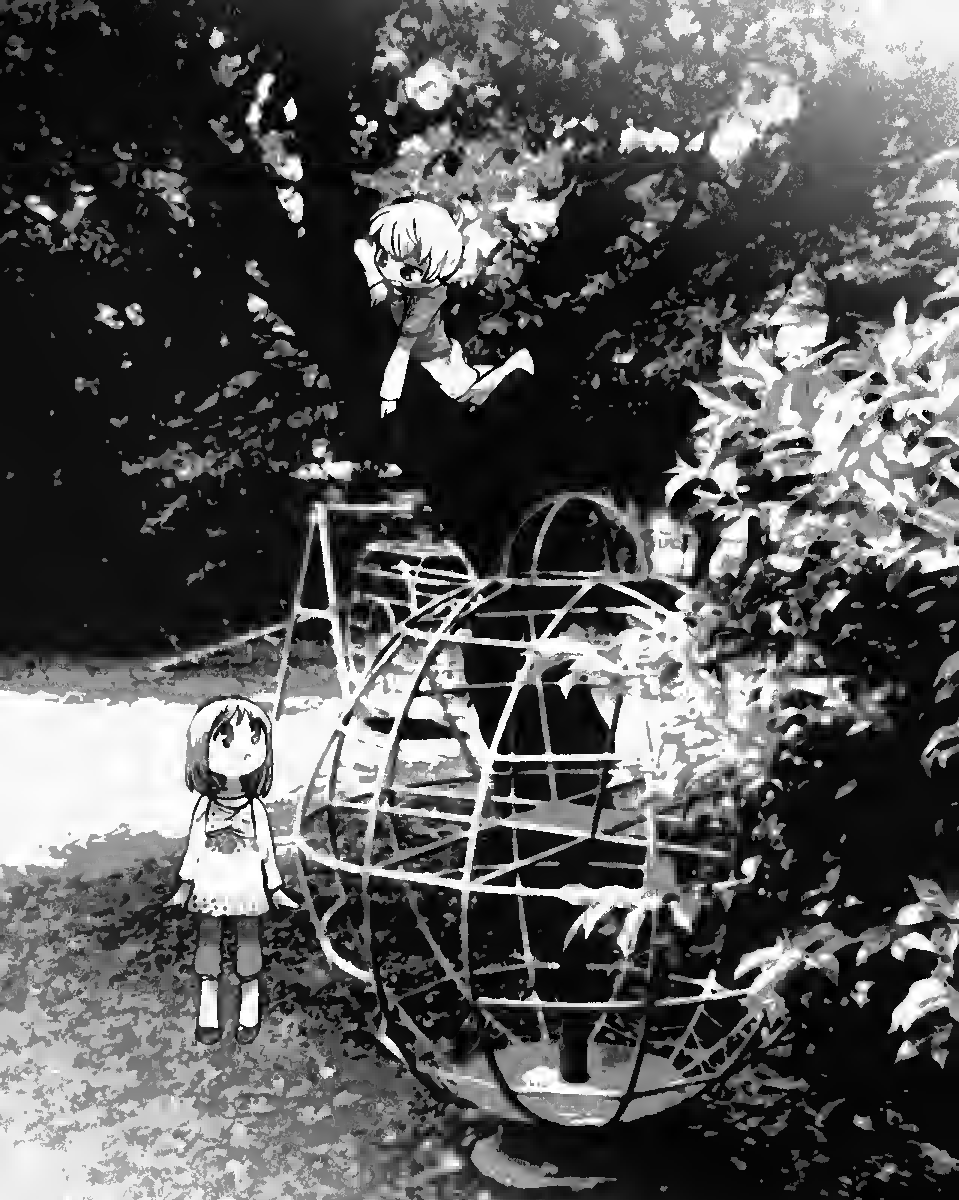
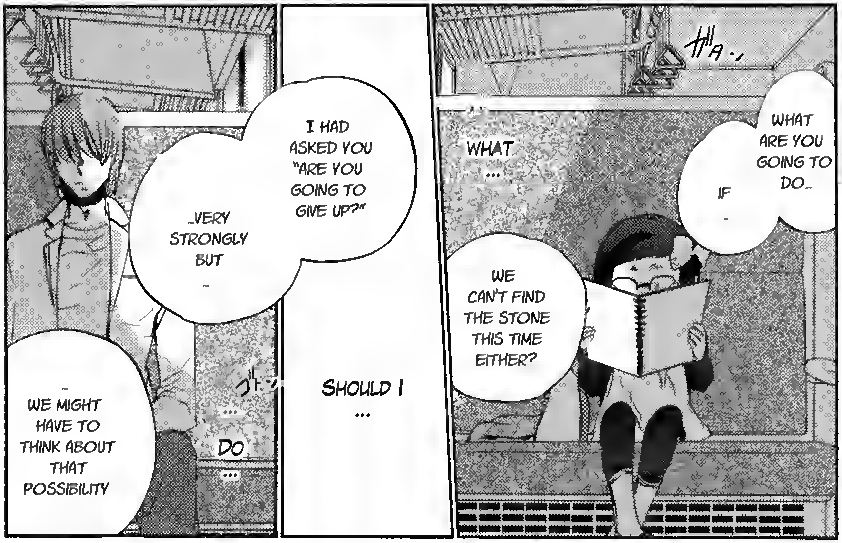


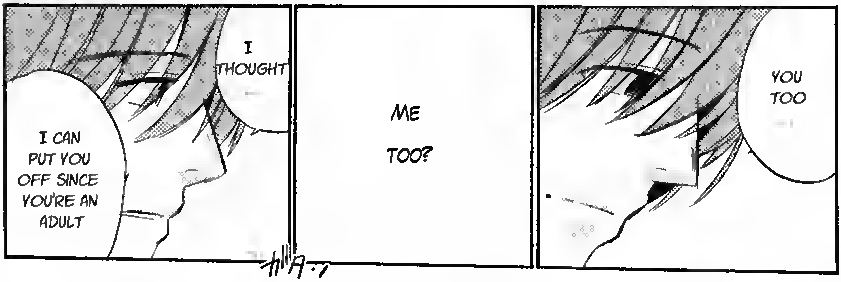
第19話

IT'LL BE OKAY, I TOLD AMINO-KUN ALREADY
I TOLD KARADA-CHAN DIRECTLY NOT TO MOVE FROM WHERE SHE IS
HAA...
YOU GET SO OVER-PROTECTIVE WHEN IT'S ABOUT KARADA-CHAN
I CAN'T HELP IT
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU WORRY ABOUT HER
THE TRAIN ISN'T GOING TO GO ANY FASTER
SO CALM DOWN
MOM, MOM! THAT ONICHAN

...IS GETTING SCOLDED BY HIS LITTLE SISTER!
HE'S THE OLDER ONE ... SO LAME!
I look like your sister?
...LITTLE SISTER EH
Calling me little? You're little too.
ANYWAY, I'M GLAD YOU'RE STILL PRETTY GOOD LOOKING ...
..."BIG BRO-THER"
PRETTY GOOD LOOKING ...?
YUP
I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT GROWING A BEARD OR HAVE MESSY HAIR
Your bangs are a little long though
HONESTLY, I WAS A LITTLE SURPRISED WHEN I SAW YOU AGAIN

I COULDN'T EVEN FIGURE OUT SOME OF YOUR EXPRESSIONS.
YES
OH
Was I that bad...?
I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, WERE YOU ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
...WHAT YOU RESEARCHED?
MY EXPRESSIONS ARE EASY TO READ
SO...
...IS THAT...
SUMMER VACATION HAS ENDED A LONG TIME AGO...
"IS IT YOUR SUMMER VACATION HOMEWORK?"
I WAS ALWAYS ASKED,
YES...
WHEN I WAS DOING IT IN THE LIBRARY...


WHAT ...
WE CAN'T FIND THE STONE THIS TIME EITHER?
IF ..
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO..
SHOULD I ...
I HAD ASKED YOU "ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE UP?"
..VERY STRONGLY BUT ..
..WE MIGHT HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THAT POSSIBILITY
DO ...


I CAN PUT YOU OFF SINCE YOU'RE AN ADULT
I THOUGHT ...
ME TOO?
YOU TOO

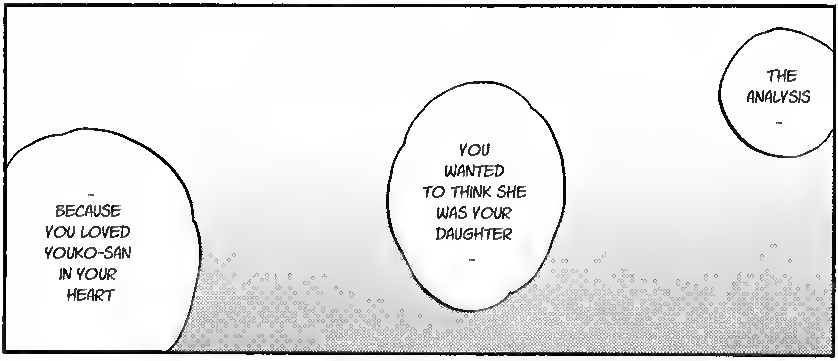
I'M NOT FAMILY ...
HE THOUGHT ABOUT ME TOO
BUT IF YOU CAN ..
I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU LIVED WITH KARADA AS SISTERS ..
... HE SHOULD JUST LEAVE ME ALONE ...
.. AND I WOULD LIVE IN A HOUSE NEARBY

... AND I WAS NEVER FIRST TO YOU.
YOU HAVE NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME
BECAUSE I'M LIKE THIS?
WHAT?
YOU WANT TO TAKE CARE OF ME
WHY ARE YOU
...
BEING NICE?
DON'T MAKE EVERYTHING YOUR BURDEN
... MISTOOK THAT I WAS NUMBER ONE TO YOU.
I ...
THAT'S WHY ...
I KNOW
SOMEONE
YOU HAD SOMEONE ELSE
ABOUT YOU AND KARADA-CHAN
AND YOUKO-SAN

BUT ...

I WISH I DIDN'T FIND OUT ...

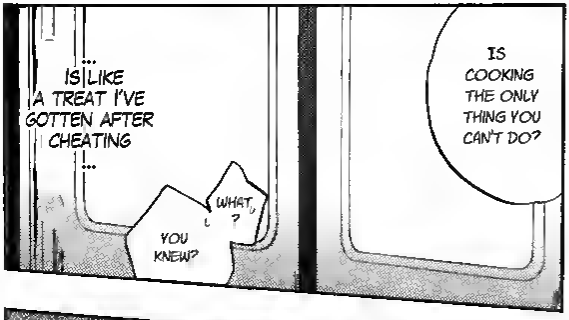
BECAUSE YOU ...



EVEN WHEN YOU WERE WITH ME
WAS YOUKO-SAN ALWAYS NUMBER ONE?
YOU DON'T DENY IT
WAS BECAUSE OF SOMEONE MORE IMPORTANT.
THE REASON YOU LEFT ME
IS THAT HOW YOU ANALYZE IT?
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN
AND SINCE THEN KARADA-CHAN IS NUMBER ONE

I WANTED TO BE NUMBER ONE.
UH ……
SOB -
MY THROAT IS HOT …
I CAN'T -
SOB -
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE NICE TO ME …
I'M NOT ACTUALLY A CHILD …
I DIDN'T PLAN TO CRY …
… MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'M A CHILD NOW,
MY TEARS JUST COME OUT.

MY TEARS WON'T STOP AT ALL...



I CAN'T BE HAPPY ...
I SENT AMINO-KUN AN E-MAIL
THAT WE'RE WAITING
LET'S GRAB A TAXI
AND GO

WHAT DO I DO?
SHE'S NOT COMING.
WHAT DO I DO?
YUMI.
WHILE I WAS IN SCHOOL ...
SHOUKO -SAN AND YOUR BROTHER - HAVE REACHED THE STATION
... AND WHILE I SEARCHED FOR THE STONE, IOKAWA ...
OH REALLY -
UM .....

I WONDER HOW SHE SPENT HER DAYS
WHAT WERE YOU DOING ALL THIS TIME?
I COOKED AND CLEANED THE HOUSE
AND DID LAUNDRY AND
I DID SOME PART-TIME WORK
The pay wasn't in cash though
WOW! THAT'S GREAT!
YOU WORKED WITH STRANGERS!?
I'VE WORKED FOR MY SISTER BEFORE BUT...
YOU'RE LIKE AN ADULT!

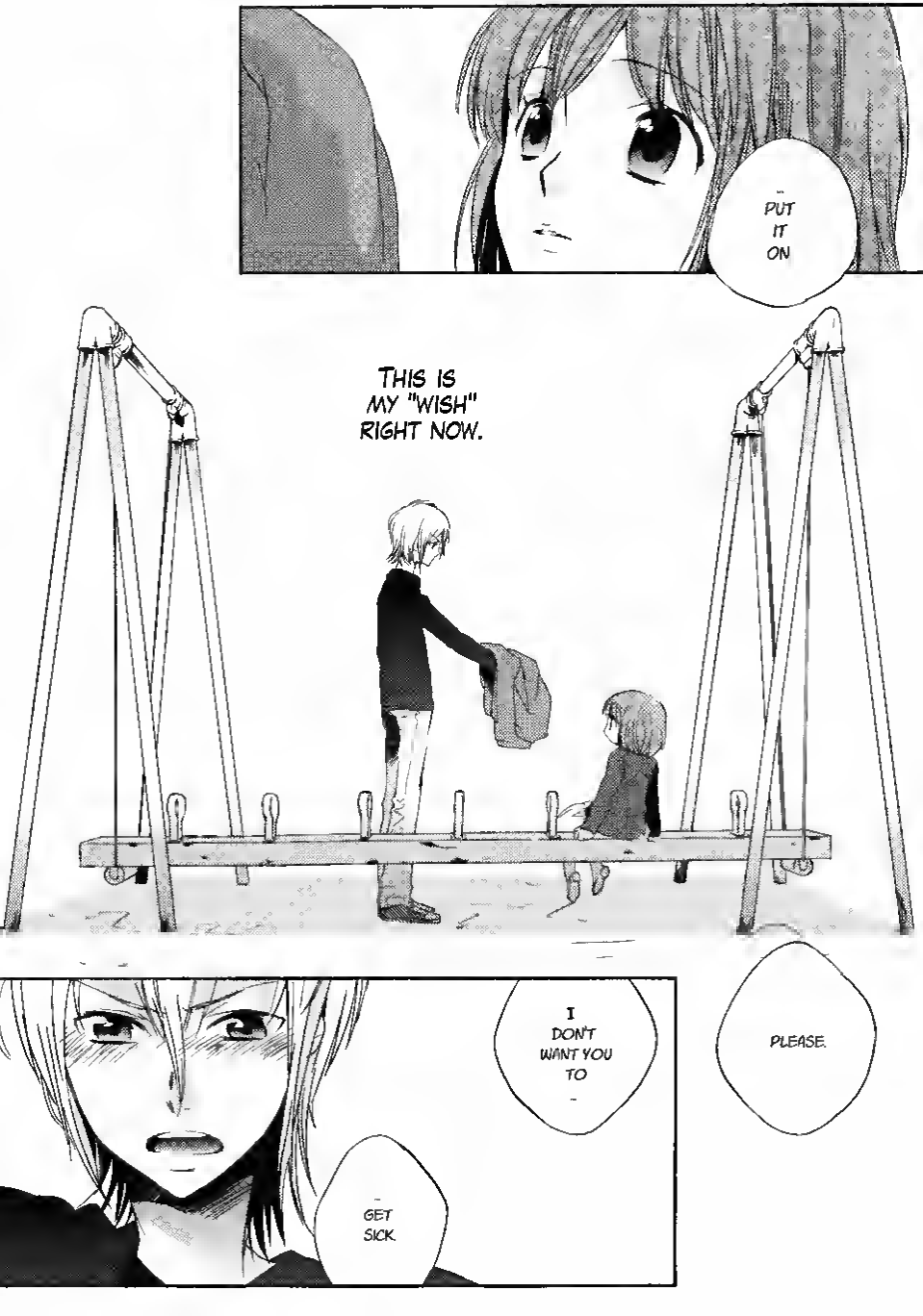
**"Word for "adult" was first written in katakana then in kanji

YOU COULD GRANT JUST ONE
A WISH
UM IF... RIGHT NOW...
NOTHING
WHAT WOULD YOU WISH FOR?
ON THE STONE!?
I WOULD WISH FOR YOU TO TURN BACK...
BESIDES THAT
DO YOU HAVE... A WISH YOU WANT TO COME TRUE?

... TO BEFORE THE START OF SUMMER VACATION ..
I CAN'T WAIT!
IT'S ALMOST SUMMER VACATION!
MY
WISH
... TURN BACK ...
IOKAWA
I WANT HER FORGIVENESS ...

... ASKING HER TO FORGET IT ALL ...
ASKING HER TO HEAR ME OUT ...
... WON'T EVEN LOOK AT ME ...
THAT "WISH" IS TOO SELFISH.
... WHEN WE SPEAK ...
I DIDN'T WANT TO DO THE SAME THING - AS THAT BEARDED GUY AT THAT TIME -
TELLING HER I LOST CONTROL - ... IS JUST AN EXCUSE -

I CAN'T SAY IT.
HERE!
YOU MIGHT NOT WANT IT BUT -
AH-
-CHOO!


..
PUT
IT
ON
THIS IS
MY "WISH"
RIGHT NOW.
I
DON'T
WANT YOU
TO
-
..
GET
SICK.
PLEASE.

I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING COOL LIKE ...
... LEAVE IT TO ME ...
... OR DON'T WORRY ...
I'LL LEAVE IT HERE .
.....
THIS IS ALL I CAN DO.
SO I'LL GO GET THAT STONE.
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HERE .

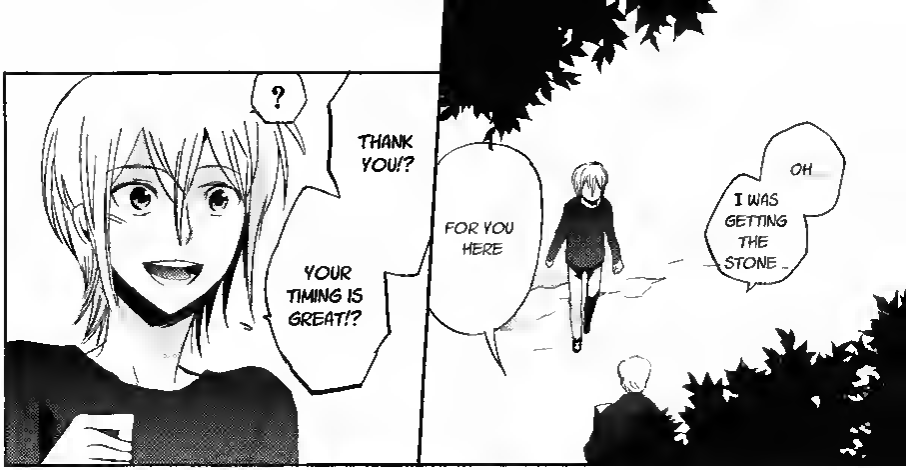
I'M GLAD I MADE IT…
AH…

I CAN'T SHOW HER SUCH A HELPLESS FACE
OR SAY ANYTHING HELPLESS
WAS HOW HELPLESS I REALLY AM.
AS I THOUGHT AND THOUGHT AND THOUGHT— ALL I LEARNED
BUT THAT'S GRANDFATHER'S HOUSE
TELLING ME I CAN COME IF I CAN'T GO BACK

AND NOW I HAVE TO HELP FIND THE STONE.
... SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED.
THE CONFIDENCE I HAD ...
IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO.
THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO RIGHT NOW ...
!
FEAR
NOTHING.

THAT'S THE "WITCH'S LAKE"
IN THERE
... BUT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN BURIED ALREADY?
BUT IT'S CLOSER TO CROSS THROUGH THE FRONT

!
TETSUMASA
GRANDFATHER
WHY ARE YOU HERE?


?
THANK YOU!?
YOUR TIMING IS GREAT!?
FOR YOU HERE
OH
I WAS GETTING THE STONE

OH THIS?
ANYWAY
WERE YOU CRYING?
YEAH
I'M SO HELPLESS
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TRY OUT BEFORE THAT PERSON COMES
?
THAT PERSON ?

I JUST REALLY THOUGHT
I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU.

I REALIZED IT
I'M A KID THAT CAN'T DO ANYTHING
YOU'RE AN ADULT
YOU HAVE A HOUSE AND MAKE MONEY
I'M JUST A NOBODY
YOU HAVE EVERYTHING
KARADA-CHAN!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO LEAVE BY YOURSELF!
I MIGHT NOT HAVE MADE SO MANY MISTAKES
AS I DID
IF I WAS MORE LIKE YOU
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
YOU THINK SO?

THAT'S JUST WHAT I THOUGHT
I HAVE TO DO WHAT I CAN DO
I'M SORRY
SO! IT'S IN HERE!?
THE WISHING STONE!!
YOU HAD SAID IF I GAVE THIS TO YOU
YOU WOULD DO ME A FAVOR, CORRECT?
YEAH!

OF COURSE!
I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY
BUT I'M IN A RUSH NOW, CAN WE DO IT TOMORROW?
THERE'S SOMEONE WAITING FOR THIS STONE!

THEN WILL YOU ...
...SWITCH PLACES WITH ME?
TETSUMASA.

ASATTE NO HOUKOU
BY YAMADA J-TA
CH.20

translator: shirokuro
editor: tsutsuihou (Today's After)

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SASAZUKA-CHAN ♡
プリントコピーをとって
ARE YOU HERE?
NO HE'S NOT
WHAT?
THAT'S RARE.
HE SAID HE HAS SOMETHING TO DO, SO I SWITCHED WITH HIM.
THAT LIBRARY-LOVING-NARROW-EYED GUY...!!
こいなら来ずにつまんでたのに
YEAHHH
だからラクできてたんだけどねん!!

BUT YOU KNOW THOSE TWINS?
ONE OF THEM COMES TO THE LIBRARY A LOT TOO
どっちがどっちだか知らないけど
EVER SINCE THEN -
HE ASKS TO SWITCH WITH ME A LOT
OH REALLY!! ♡
第20話
SO IT'S SOMETHING TO DO WITH HER???
I THINK SO!

I TOTALLY THOUGHT IT WAS AN IMPOSSIBLE FEAT
FOR SASUZUKA TO BE HONEST
ノート ノート
SO?
WHICH ONE IS HE AFTER?
YUMI?
SAE?
HE SHOULD JUST CONFESS HIS LOVE
AND IF IT FAILS, IT FAILS
AND IF IT GOES WELL

HE SHOULD GO ON DATES AND ENJOY HIS SCHOOL LIFE!
I'M NOT LIKE THAT !!
I CAME TO PICK UP MY NOTEBOOK AND THIS WHAT I CATCH YOU GUYS DOING? GOSSIPING!
SO WHAT? IT'S FINE.

YUMI-SAN
NAKAMIYA-SAN
NAKAMIYA
UH
UHMM...
I...I'M THE LIBRARY STAFF, SASAZUKA...
WHY AM I INTRODUCING MYSELF NOW!?
ARE YOU ALONE...?
WHERE'S SAE-SAN?
DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME!!

I GATHERED SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE WISHING STONE ON MY OWN
AND I WAS HOPING IT COULD BE USEFUL FOR YOU
SO ...
SO ...
CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN.
I KNOW I CAN'T SPEAK VERY WELL...
I SURRED
PLE-
PLEASE ...
ACCEPPPT THIS!
THANKS

願い石研究
I'LL LOOK FOR MORE BOOKS YOU MIGHT LIKE!!
OK.
SEE YA !!
ダッ!
?
ダダダダ
I HAD A BETTER CONVERSATION THIS TIME!!
HOW ...
HOW'S THAT!! AMINO!!!
見たか!
ハ?

FOUR...?
I GAVE HER THE NOTEBOOKS
OH SASAZUKA-CHAN IS BACK
YOU GAVE THE TWIN SOMETHING RIGHT?
UH YEAH
FOUR...!
My idea notebook!
Thanks
Please accept this.
I ACCIDENTALLY GAVE IT TO HER TOO!?
I'LL BE MORTIFIED IF SHE SEES THAT!!!
...ALL MY IDEAS FOR ESSAYS AND STORIES...
IT'S WHERE I WRITE...
AAH
AAAH
AAH
WA-
WAIT!!
OH, THERE HE GOES AGAIN..

DID SHE READ IT...
SORRY! THAT NOTE-BOOK
THIS... STORY?
DID YOU WRITE IT?
UH YEAH
HMM?
I CAN ONLY READ HIRAGANA.
SAE CAN READ MORE BUT
WHAT KIND OF STORY IS IT?
"RED BIRD AND BLACK BIRD"
THAT'S WHY SHE ALWAYS READS PICTURE BOOKS.
OH YEAH.
THERE WAS A LYING SPELL CAST ON THE BLACK BIRD.
AND EVEN IF IT WANTED TO TELL THE TRUTH IT COULD ONLY SPEAK LIES
AND

I CAN SPEAK MORE THAN I THOUGHT.
HEY, I GUESS ...
I WANT ...
TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HER ...
ALONG GOES THE RED BIRD ...
THAT CAN ONLY TELL THE TRUTH EVEN WHEN IT WANTS TO LIE
えい!

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF ANY STORIES?
IF SO, CAN I HEAR THEM?
DO YOU WANT ... HALF?
ぷるるん

I DO KNOW ...
JUST ONE STORY.
TELL ME!
"ONCE UPON A TIME ...
"THERE WERE TWO GIRLS LIVING TOGETHER.
AND THEY HAD ONE OLD BASKET.
THEY CALLED THE BASKET THE "BREAD BASKET"
BUT ...
THERE WAS NEVER ANY "BREAD" INSIDE.
"THIS WAS BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY BREAD
"THEY DIDN'T HAVE ...

"...ANY MONEY TO BUY THE BREAD"
THE TWO WERE SISTERS THAT WERE VERY CLOSE.
THEY LOOKED ALIKE...
...AND WERE ALWAYS VERY HUNGRY.
SOMETIMES, WHEN THEY DID GET BREAD, THEY ALWAYS SPLIT IT IN TWO...
...SO THE BASKET WAS ALWAYS EMPTY.
"THE TWO OF THEM SAID -
"I WISH WE HAD A BASKET FULL OF BREAD..."
"...A BASKET THAT'S ALWAYS FULL."
THE TWO HAD REMEMBERED THIS...
FROM A STORY THAT HAD BEEN READ TO THEM IN THE PAST.

THEY WOULD DANCE.
THEY DECIDED ...
WAS NOT A MAGICAL BASKET.
BUT THEIR BASKET ...
THEY HAD TO SHOW OFF SOME TRICKS.
IF THEY WANTED TO EAT ...
IF THEY COULDN'T DO ANY TRICKS ...
THE TWO WERE INVITED TO DANCE AT THE CIRCUS.
YOU CAN WEAR PRETTY CLOTHES.
WILL YOU GIVE US BREAD TOO?
WONDERFUL.
THEIR DANCE BECAME VERY POPULAR ...
AND THEIR BASKET FILLED UP.

ADD MORE STUNTS TO THE SHOW!
BUT DAY BY DAY ...
...IT WAS NO LONGER ENOUGH TO JUST SING AND DANCE.
DO IT!
THE AUDIENCE WANTED TO SEE THEIR NEW TRICKS
WE CAN'T DO IT YET!
THE CIRCUS LEADER PUT UP POSTERS ALL OVER THE CITY ABOUT A "NEW SHOW."
THE ROPE -BROKE
... AND ONE OF THEM ...
... INJURED HER LEG ...
... VERY BADLY
-! NEE-SAN!!

THE CIRCUS LEADER GAVE THEM A LITTLE BIT OF MONEY AND KICKED THEM OUT.
NEESAN... DOES IT HURT?
I'M FINE...
THE TWO WERE ONCE AGAIN ...
... ALL ALONE.
THEY USED ALL THEIR MONEY ON BOOKS AND INSTRUMENTS.
LOOK NEESAN!
IT'S A PAGE OF THE PICTURE BOOK
THERE'S A PICTURE OF A BASKET!
THIS WAS IN BETWEEN THE PAGES...
... AND HOW TO GET BREAD ...
... THAT'S HOW TO GET MONEY ...
ONE SANG AND ONE DANCED ...
BE QUIET...!
I'M STUDYING RIGHT NOW!!
DON'T WEAVE A RED SARAFAN*

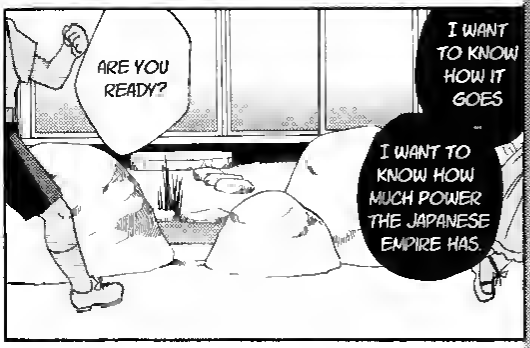
*Russian folk dress costume.

DON'T SING
THE SECOND VERSE OF THAT
STOP IT MOTHER, IT'S USELESS.
IT'S TOO SOON TO TAKE OUT THE RIBBON
THE RIBBON LOOKS SO NICE
IT'S POPULAR AMONG THE YOUNG
A BLACK WITCH APPEARED IN FRONT OF THE GIRLS
I DON'T LIKE IT
THE WITCH SAYS SOMETHING TO THEM
...
SHE WANTS TO ASK FOR A FAVOR.
IF WE AGREE, SHE WILL FIX THE SISTER'S LEG
...
... AND SHE WOULD FILL THEIR BASKET UNTIL IT OVERFLOWED.

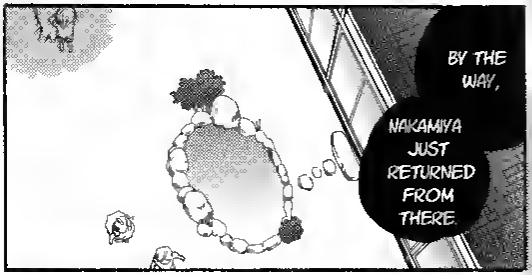
IT'S JUST A STORY
AND SHE BROUGHT THE SISTERS TO A FAR AWAY LAND
WHAT'S THE REST?
THAT'S THE END.
WHAT SHOULD I SAY?
IS THAT ABOUT YOU AND YOUR SISTER?
.....

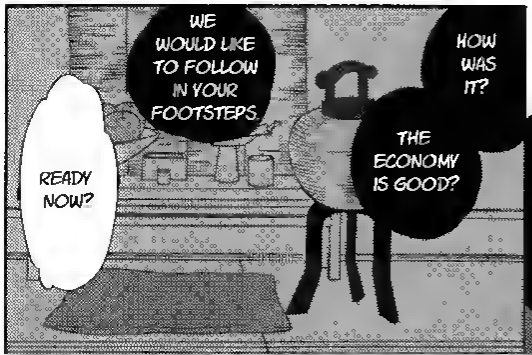
I...
OH
SO CAN I WRITE
THE CONTINU-ATION?
THE GIRLS WILL BE VERY HAPPY IN THE END
AND SHE MAKES MANY FRIENDS!
AND THE GIRLS LIVE HAPPILY TOGETHER!!
THEY WERE TAKEN TO THE SOUTHERN ISLANDS
AND THEY FIND A MAGICAL BREAD BASKET

THANKS!
THAT'S THE END OF THE GIRL'S STORY,
BUT I REMEMBER ONE MORE STORY
OH?
I WANT TO HEAR IT!
IT'S ONE I LEARNED IN JAPAN
IT'S ABOUT A BLACK WITCH


ARE YOU READY?
I WANT TO KNOW HOW IT GOES.
I WANT TO KNOW HOW MUCH POWER THE JAPANESE EMPIRE HAS.

NOT YET!


BY THE WAY,
NAKAMIYA JUST RETURNED FROM THERE.


WE WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS.
READY NOW?
HOW WAS IT?
THE ECONOMY IS GOOD?
I WAS THINKING OF STARTING A STORE ON THE MASHU LAND.

IT'S THE STORY ABOUT -
- THE WITCH'S PAST.

READY?
NOT YET
I HEARD ABOUT NAKAMIYA - THEY ADOPTED A CHILD
YES, THEY HAVE NO CHILDREN
OH
I SAID NOT YET
WHO ARE YOU...?

OH THERE HE IS
TETSUMASA! SHOW HER AROUND
I AM KIKUKO
HELLO
YES SIR
EHHH, I WAS SO EXCITED TO PLAY WITH YOU TETSUMASA NII-SAN!
I'M SORRY
ME TOO
SORRY, HIDE AND SEEK IS OVER
WE HAVE HORSES OVER HERE.
PLEASE COME THIS WAY...

!
I HEARD THAT -
KIKUKO-SAN IS A BLOOD RELATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN NOBLE FAMILY
SHE IS A MIX BREED OF HALF JAPANESE.
I UNDERSTAND
I WOULD APPRECIATE IF WE COULD
IT'S INFORMATION THAT SHOULD NOT BE MENTIONED IN THESE TIMES.

SEVILLE ORANGES
MANDARIN ORANGES?
WOW ...
A TIMELESS FRUIT
THE ONES THAT HAVE EXISTED FOR SO LONG WITHOUT FALLING OFF...
MAYBE SOME OF THE OLD ONES THAT HAVE BEEN HANGING FOR YEARS
THEY ARE NOT EDIBLE DURING THIS SEASON, THEY'RE TOO BITTER
I HEARD IT'S MEDICINE TO LIVE FOREVER ...

OH NO
YOU'RE BLEEDING
!
OH! DON'T!
IT'S DANGEROUS SO I WILL
THERE ARE THORNS ON THESE
SO YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL

I HAVE TO ASK YOU ... FOR A FAVOR AMINO ...
CAN YOU SHOW ME THE "WISHING STONE"?
KIKUKO SAYS SHE WANTS TO SEE IT.
SHE LOVES MYSTICAL THINGS LIKE THAT.

DID IT COME OUT?
YES!
PROBABLY ...
UH UM
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE ME TO GET?
YES ...
I WANT THE "WISHING STONE."

HOW WAS THE WISHING STONE?
FATHER!
KIKUKO...
I HAD PREPARED A ROOM IN CASE HE WANTED TO STAY
WHERE'S NAKAMIYA?
HE'S GOING HOME TODAY.
THE FRONT IS THAT SHE WAS ADOPTED... BUT IN REALITY... RIGHT?
WELL... I GUESS IT DOESN'T GO THAT EASILY
I'M SORRY KIKUKO...
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
WHAT?!
I WAS SO EXCITED!
SHE LOOKS 16 OR 17 BUT...
SHE'S MORE A GRANDDAUGHTER THAN A DAUGHTER
HOW OLD IS SHE NOW...?

UM!
THERE'S A STONE THAT'S SIMILAR TO THE WISHING STONE.
I DON'T WANT SOME USELESS STONE.
DOES THAT NOT INTEREST YOU?
I CAN'T USE IT FOR ANYTHING
WHAT WILL YOU...
...USE IT FOR?

YOU'RE NOT PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK?
YES
I'M NOT THAT YOUNG ANYMORE
KIKUKO-SAN

IT'S BEEN ALMOST 10 YEARS SINCE WE LAST SAW EACH OTHER.
YOU HAVE GROWN SO MUCH
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, KIKUKO-SAN
OH?
WHERE IS MR. NAKAMIYA TODAY...?
HE HAS BEEN BED-RIDDEN FOR 2 YEARS
OH YES ...
TODAY
I ASKED FOR A PORTRAIT AROUND HERE
..AND CAME TO PICK IT UP
SHOULD I FIND ...
THE "WISHING STONE"?

AT THE TIME, I WAS THE ONLY ONE IN THIS LARGE HOUSE ...
REALLY...?
YES, I WILL BRING IT HERE
WHAT AM I SAYING?
IT'S UP TO ME TO DECIDE WHAT I DO WITH THIS STONE ...
MY FATHER HAD ALREADY RETIRED ... AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY.
THAT I WANTED TO DO ANYTHING FOR HER.
I HAD BEGUN TO FEEL ...
WHEN I SAW KIKUKO AGAIN TODAY ...
CAN I HAVE IT!?
THIS! THIS STONE!
THIS IS IT..!!
OH!

AT THAT TIME, KIKUKO DIDN'T TAKE THE THORN OUT.
SURE, YOU CAN HAVE IT
THANK YOU!!
CAN YOU BREAK THIS IN TWO?
I HAVE ANOTHER WISH ..
SHE PUT A THORN INTO ME.
IF I HOLD ON TO IT I'LL USE IT ALL UP!!
AND HIDE IT IN A PLACE I CAN'T FIND
AND INTO MY BRAIN
NOW?
YES, NOW
WENT, THROUGH MY VEINS, PAST MY HEART ..
THAT THORN ...
NOT YET
ARE YOU READY?
...AND STUCK THERE.

...
OTHERWISE, THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD BELIEVE SUCH A STRANGE STORY
...
YOU CAN SWITCH AGES WITH SOMEONE YOU WISH TO TRADE WITH
-
THE WISH THAT THE STONE GRANTS
-
IS ETERNAL LIFE!!
THAT THORN WOULD RELEASE SOME SORT OF POISON, THAT WOULD SWEETLY NUMB ALL FEELING IN MY BRAIN, SO I COULD NO LONGER THINK
...
AND THE MORE PURE IT IS THE HIGHER THE POSSIBILITY
-
YOU DON'T GO BACK IN TIME SO YOU CAN KEEP YOUR INHERITANCE
-
A CHILD CAN BECOME AN OLD WOMAN AND AN OLD WOMAN A CHILD
SOMETIMES THERE ARE USELESS STONES THAT CAN HAVE THE SAME EFFECT.
BUT THE WAY IT HAPPENS IS...

IT WAS A GIRL.
AFTER THAT, I MARRIED MY FIANCÉE AND HAD A CHILD WHEN I WAS 26.
SHE NEVER SAID WHEN, BUT KIKUKO LEFT
...
AND WHEN I WAS 56 A GRANDSON WAS BORN.
THAT DAUGHTER MARRIED
...
... AND OUR GRANDCHILD WAS A DAUGHTER
...
CAN YOU NAME HIM?
FATHER

THE FRIGHTENING WORDS ...
IF I'M GOING TO SWITCH I WANT TO DO IT WITH A RELATIVE!
SINCE WE'LL LOOK ALIKE!
KIKUKO'S DREAM-LIKE STORY.
I REMEMBERED ...
IN THAT MOMENT ...
IT MIGHT BE EASIER TO TAKE CARE OF IT THAT WAY.
IT'S OKAY TO SWITCH WITH SOMEONE THAT DOESN'T LOOK COMPLETELY LIKE ME...
HIS EYES ARE LIKE FATHER'S
AS I AGED I FELT IT AGAIN!
KIKUKO'S THORN SLINK DEEPER AND DEEPER.
WITHIN MY HARDENING BRAIN CELLS
THE POISON ...
BROUGHT FORTH THE TRUTH.
AND I SUDDENLY ...
HOW ABOUT ...
TETSUMASA LIKE ME?
WISHED.
I FELT THE INEVITABLE AGING OF MY BODY ...

ASATTE NO HOUKOU

BY YAMADA J-TA

CH.21

translator: shirokuro
editor: tsutsuihou (Today's After)

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AND SLOWLY WALKING TOWARDS DEATH IS A FRIGHTENING THING
...
GROWING OLD AND UGLY
...
THAT'S FINE
最終話
さいしゅうわ
SNOOP AROUND ABOUT IOKAWA?
THAT'S WHY YOU HAD THE GUY IN THE HAT

ALL IT DOES IS SWITCH YOUR AGE.
YOU CAN'T FIX YOUR MISTAKES OR CHOOSE ANOTHER PATH IN YOUR PAST.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT DOES.
ISN'T IT PRETTY POINTLESS?
NOTHING CAN BE COMPARED TO YOUTH.
ARE YOU JUST DUMB-FOUNDED
BY MY SELFISH REQUEST?
NO
THAT'S NOT IT
UM...
YOU DON'T SEEM TOO SURPRISED

YOU'LL BECOME WRINKLY AND EVERYONE WILL HATE YOU.
BUT I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE SATISFIED WITH YOURSELF
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT VERY WELL
HMM... HOW DO I PUT IT?
IT'S JUST THAT EVEN IF YOU USE THE WISHING STONE

AND YOU'RE CALM AND NEVER MAKE MISTAKES
YOU'RE SMART AND KNOW EVERYTHING
AND ADMIRE YOU
THEY CALL YOU THE LOCAL SQUIRE

AND I CAN'T EVEN MAKE MY OWN MONEY
I'M ALWAYS DOING STUPID STUFF
AND THE ONLY THING THAT'S BIG ABOUT ME IS MY HEIGHT
BUT
I'M JUST A KID

EVERYTHING I OWN BECOMES YOURS
OF COURSE IF YOU SWITCH WITH ME ...
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING
I HATE MYSELF FOR BEING SUCH A KID
GROWING OLD IS FRIGHTENING ...
YOU MUST ESCAPE IT.
YES HURRY.

LOOK, IT'S ALL GOING ACCORDINGLY.
YOU'RE ... NOT SCARED?
THEN YOU HAVE TO MAKE UP FOR IT
OH, BUT EVEN IF WE SWITCH ...
I'M DUMB, SO I MIGHT SLIP ...
AND WE HAVE THE SAME NAME SO IT'S FINE
BUT I GUESS EVERYONE SAYS I LOOKED LIKE YOU WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER ...

AGING IS ...
YOUR BODY THAT USED TO MOVE FREELY BEGINS TO ACHE
AND DEEP WRINKLES HAUNT THE FACE
AND YOU GROW CLOSER TO DEATH
AGING?
GROWING OLDER?
I DON'T KNOW
TO BE HONEST ...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE FUTURE ...
IS IT JUST YOUTHFUL IGNORANCE?
BUT ...

I DON'T THINK IT'S SO BAD
IF I CAN BECOME LIKE YOU
IS THAT HOW...
... GROW OLD ... UNTIL NOW
... ABLE TO ...
I HAD BEEN...
MEANS KIKUKO'S THORNS WERE IN ME DEEP
BUT FOR ME TO BRING UP SOMETHING LIKE THIS
I THOUGHT THEY WERE MEMORIES FROM MANY YEARS AGO,

AREN'T YOU SCARED !?
LET'S PLACE IT ON HOLD
I'M SORRY TETSUMASA ...
FOR NOW,
NOTHING CAN BE DONE WITH JUST HALF ...
COME WITH ME
PLUS, THIS IS ONLY HALF
OF THE WHOLE STONE.
STAY YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL
BUT THE OTHER HALF SHOULD BE HERE SOON.
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF PLOTTING A TRAP TO CAPTURE A WITCH

NEE-SAN!
YUMI...
!
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU IT WAS DANGEROUS TO RUN!

WHAT DO I DO?
THE GUEST I WENT TO PICK UP...
NEVER CAME!
I'M GOING TO GET IN TROUBLE AGAIN!
WHAT DO I DO?
I COULDN'T FOLLOW KIKUKO-SAMA'S REQUEST!
I WAS THERE TOO...
BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE...?
NEE-SAN...
I'M SCARED...
WHEN WE HAD BAD MOUTHED HER THE OTHER DAY...
SHE HEARD IT
AND SHE GOT VERY ANGRY

NEE-SAN
LET'S GO HOME.
LET'S JUST LEAVE
HOME...?
IF WE BEAR IT ALL HERE, WE CAN HAVE FOOD TO EAT AND CLOTHES TO WEAR AND HAVE A ROOM...
BUT IF WE GO HOME...
WE'LL JUST BE HUNGRY...
AND BE COLD AGAIN?
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN KIKUKO-SAMA GROWS SICK OF US?
I DON'T WANT THAT...
IT'S OKAY.

WE'RE NOT LITTLE CHILDREN ANYMORE.
BUT,
HOW DO WE GO HOME?
I RECEIVED A NOTE THAT SAYS IF WE CAN BRING THE HALF OF THE WISHING STONE
THAT KIKUKO-SAMA HAS...
WE CAN RECEIVE THE SECOND TICKET.

PREPARE MY THINGS SO I CAN LEAVE
I ENDED UP NOT BEING ABLE TO FIND ANYTHING BESIDES THIS
I'M CLOSE TO MY END
I WILL GO GET THE OTHER HALF MYSELF

WHERE IS YUMI !!?
YUMI !!
.....
SAE !!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING THAT?
WAIT!

YUMI
...

YOU CANNOT GO ANYWHERE.
NOT LIKE YOU HAVE ANYWHERE TO GO.
IT'S OKAY, AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE...
SAE IS JUST SMART,
BUT SHE CAN'T GET ANYTHING DONE.
I'LL HAVE TO TELL HER AGAIN NEXT TIME.
I WANTED TO SEE THE PERSON WHO USED THE WISHING STONE UP CLOSE...

IF THERE IS A NEXT TIME
DON'T YOU NEED TO GO GET THE STONE BACK?
IT'S OKAY
EVEN IF SHE UNITES THE STONE WITH TETSUMASA -SAN'S HALF
IT WON'T WORK
THE FINAL PIECE
IS IN YOUR TOOTH YUMI
IT'S GETTING DARK
IT MUST BE TOUGH FOR SAE WITH THAT LEG OF HERS

WHAT IF IT WERE YUMI'S LEGS ?
!
..CAN'T EVEN TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US
YOU ..
SHOW ME YOUR TEETH !!!
WHAT IF IT WERE YUMI?

IT'S NOT HERE ...
SAE !!
THE WISHING STONES ARE ALREADY ...

IOKWA!!
SHOUKO-SAN!!
LOOK!
THE WISHING STONE!!! THE REAL ONE!!
YOUNG AMINO!
GOOD JOB!

HERE!
YOU CAN TURN BACK NOW!
YOU CAN GO BACK TO SCHOOL NOW!
AND BE A KID AGAIN !!!
OH ...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
OH ...
YES.
ISN'T THAT GREAT? KARADA -CHAN!!
... KARADA -CHAN ?

LIKE THAT SHRINE!
DIDN'T YOU TWO SWITCH IN THE LABORATORY ?
CAN WE DO IT SOME -WHERE
THAT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE STONE?
UM ..
OH
BUT THE FIRST PLACE I MADE THE WISH IS THERE SO ..
OH
NO ..
LET ME CALL A TAXI
LET'S WALK !!
THE STONE WON'T RUN AWAY FROM US NOW
.....

SHE SHOULD JUST
TURN BACK ALREADY.
IF IT WAS THE USUAL IOKAWA
...
...THAT WAY.
I WOULDN'T HAVE FELT
...
I KNOW IOKAWA'S REASONING,
BUT WHY DID YOU
...
WISH TO TURN BACK INTO A CHILD?
OH YEAH
...
.....
WHAT'S WRONG?

I SOMEHOW GOT INVOLVED IN THIS ...
!!
DIDN'T WANT TO BE A CHILD AGAIN
.....
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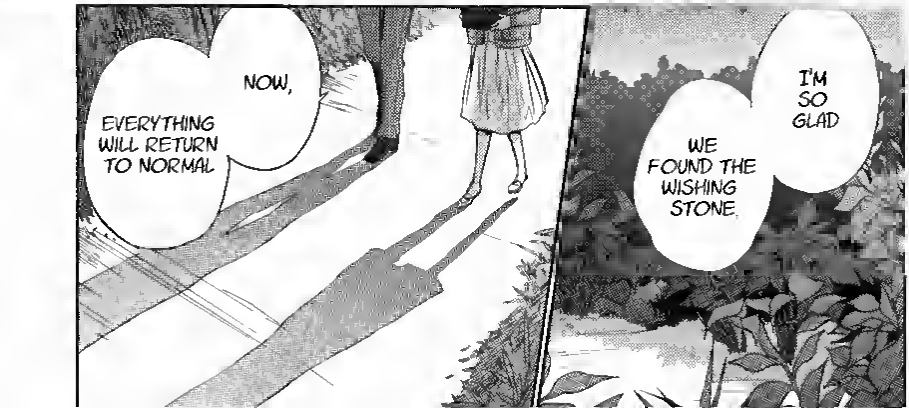

NOW, EVERYTHING WILL RETURN TO NORMAL
I'M SO GLAD WE FOUND THE WISHING STONE.

YES
...
EVERYTHING WILL BE
BACK TO NORMAL AGAIN...
KARADA!
PLEASE LISTEN TO OUR...
"WISH."

THE WORLD ...
IS IT GOING TO BE ALL THE SAME WHEN I TURN BACK?
IS MADE UP OF TWO THINGS.
I'M GOING TO BE A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR THE ADULTS AROUND ME.
WHAT WISH DID THE STONE GRANT?
WHAT -
THINGS YOU CAN DO
AND THINGS YOU CAN'T DO.

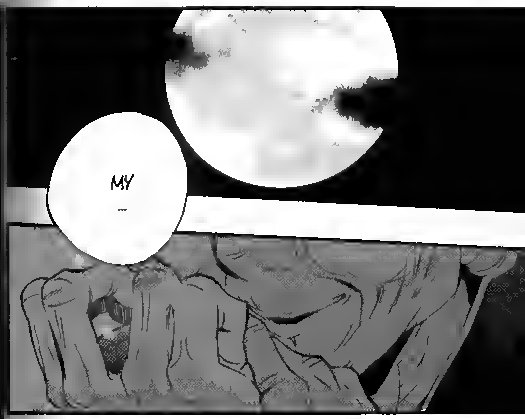
WE WILL CHANGE THINGS
BUT ...
.....
... OF THINGS THAT CAN'T BE DONE IS MUCH LARGER.
IF I TURN BACK NOTHING WILL CHANGE. AND EVEN IF I DON'T NOTHING WILL CHANGE.
... AND THE PROPORTION ...

WE'RE FAMILY SO IT'S ALRIGHT
EVEN IF YOU CAUSE TROUBLE OR HAVE TROUBLE CAUSED ON YOU, WE...
BUT I ...
I'M NOT ...
... ARE TRYING HARD ...
TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY ...
YOU CAN'T CAUSE TROUBLE FOR STRANGERS
AND SWAYING BACK AND FORTH ...
WE ALSO !!!

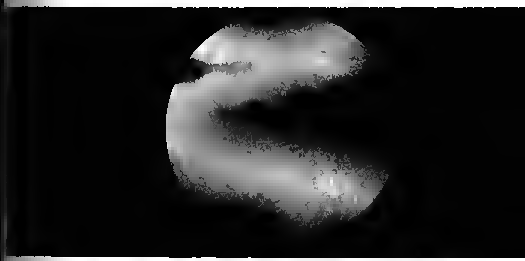
In the past
and the future
and in between.

NEESAN!
I GOT THE TICKET!
NOW WE CAN--
YUMI...
WHAT DO I DO!
KIKUKO-SAMA FAINTED AND...
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE...
AND CALL AN AMBULANCE.
.....
crack

WERE YOU THE BAD ONE, YUMI?
SO WE CAN LIVE YOUNG TOGETHER FOREVER.
THAT FOOL...
ONE WAS FOR TETSUMASA -SAN
TO USE...
BUT THERE IS STILL ONE MORE...
MY PIECE.



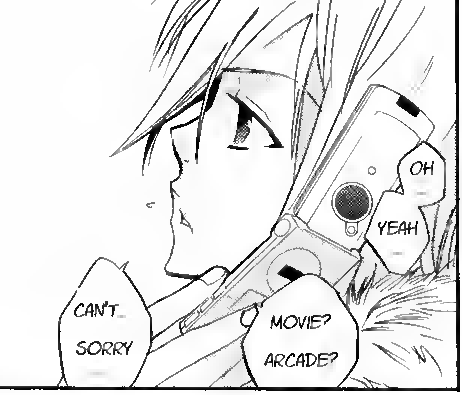
"WISH"

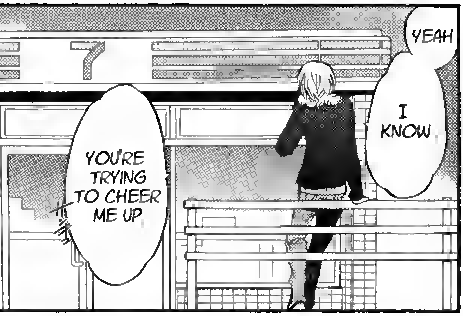


HA.
HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
YES!
I HATE WATCHING THIS STORE-FRONT,
BUT I GET TO USE THEIR PRINTER.
WHEN THE SPRING VACATION ENDS...
"AND THE TWINS LIVED ...
welcome

TETSU
...
HE DOESN'T COME HERE MUCH ANYMORE
...
OH WELL
...
HE DOESN'T HAVE AN EXCUSE ANYMORE
...

UM
...
I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT A ROOM
...
OH
...
SORRY
I'M JUST IN CHARGE OF THE PHONES
...
HM?
ARE YOU A GRADE SCHOOLER?


OH
YEAH
CAN'T
SORRY
MOVIE?
ARCADE?


YEAH
I KNOW
YOU'RE TRYING TO CHEER ME UP

WHEN SPRING BREAK ENDS I'LL SEE YOU AT SCHOOL
OKAY
LATER

OH YEAH
I HAVE TO BRING THESE FUNERAL CLOTHES TO THE CLEANERS.

UH
IOKAWA
IT'S RARE TO HAVE A VACATION WITH NO HOMEWORK
SO THERE'S A LOT OF TIME ON OUR HANDS.
BYE
AMINO-KUN

I THINK THE WISH WAS RETRACTED ...
I'M SORRY ... ABOUT THAT TIME !!
IOKAWA !
.....
YEA
YEAH
BYE -

I AM BACK TO WHO I WAS
I AM THE CHILD BEFORE MAKING THE WISH
SO LET'S BE
FRIENDS AGAIN
FRIENDS AGAIN

YEAH
BACK TO THE FRIENDS
... WE USED TO BE
PUT THIS IN THE LUNCH BOX
... OFF A LITTLE
AFTER COOLING THIS
...
ぱたん

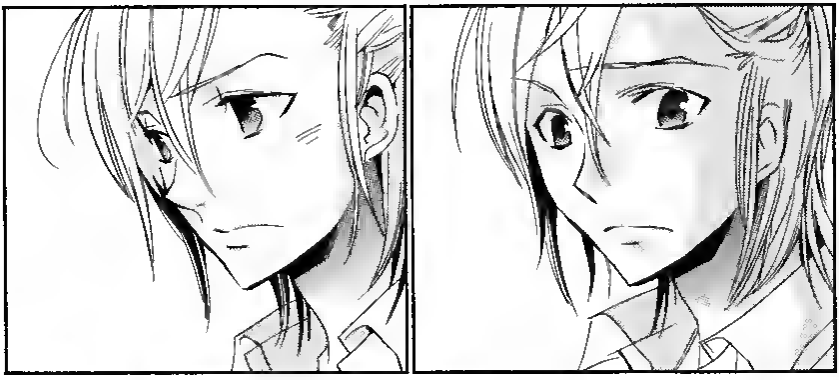
HIRONII IT'S MORNING! WAKE UP PLEASE!
おしっこ!
う?
YOU'RE SO AWFUL IN THE MORNING
THAT'S WHY SHOUKO-SAN LEAVES YOU!
IT'S DONE!
I'M LEAVING!
YOUR LUNCH AND LETTER IS ON THE TABLE
HAVE A GOOD DAY

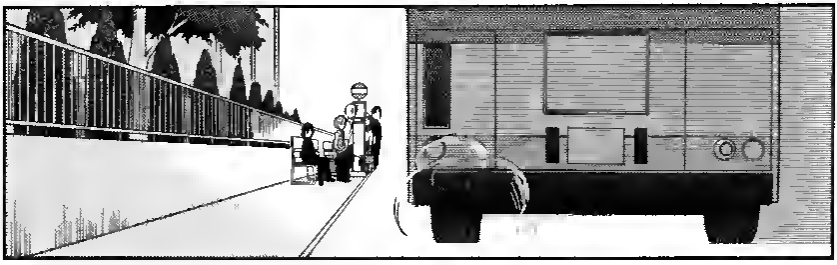
LETTER...!?
I STILL ...
DON'T KNOW WHY I WANTED TO TURN BACK INTO A CHILD
SO I WANT TO SEARCH FOR THE REASON ...
AND THINK ABOUT IT ...
IS MY EXCUSE ...
SHOUKO
I SUDDENLY WANTED TO TRAVEL ...
I WANTED TO LEAVE YOU BEHIND
THIS TIME
I THOUGHT YOU COULD RETURN TO WORK LIKE I DID
YOU'RE SO SURPRISED

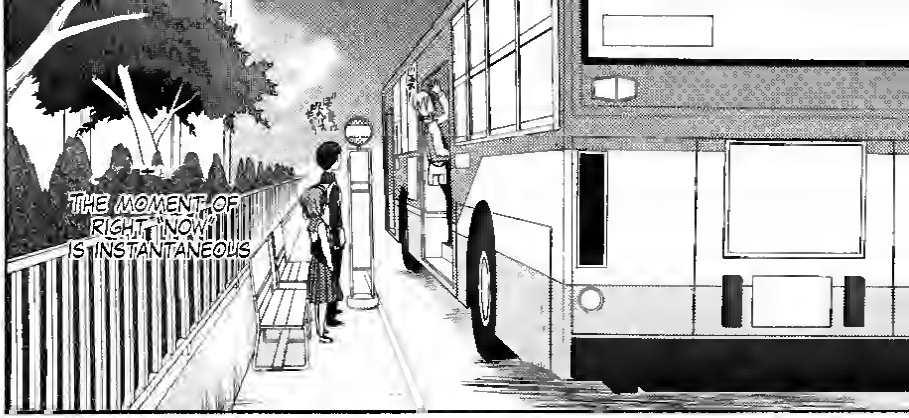
BECAUSE
YOU
..
STILL LIKE ME DON'T YOU ?
!
WHAT AN OLD LETTER
DEAR HIRONII,
THIS IS A LETTER I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO SEND OUT.
AFTER YOU READ IT ...
PLEASE LET ME READ IT AFTERWARDS.
WHEN'S THIS FROM ?
WE ALL WROTE YOU A PAGE EACH TO YOU.
IT'S A LETTER TO YOU, SO I DIDN'T OPEN IT FOR A LONG TIME.
WHEN'S THIS FROM?
BETWEEN DAD, MOM,
YOUKO MAMA, AND ME...
!!

IOKAWA -KUN!
CAN YOU COME WITH ME AFTER SCHOOL TO PICK UP THE DONATION BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY?
SURE !!
SASA -ZUKA -SENPAI
THEY'RE SO CLOSE ♡
THEY'RE JUST BOTH LIBRARY STAFF
I HEARD THEY EAT LUNCH TOGETHER TOO. IS THAT OKAY WITH YOU?
DOESN'T MATTER TO ME IOKAWA AND I ARE
JUST FRIENDS

YOU GUYS ARE GOING OUT TO PLAY AGAIN?
WHY DOES IT MATTER WHAT WE DO AFTER SCHOOL?
そうだ!! そうだケンゼンなホーカゴだ!
WHAT ABOUT YOU IOKAWA, YOU'RE ON A DATE?
NOPE!
SASAZUKA -SENPAI IS IN LOVE WITH YUMI!
WHA-
WHY DO YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!!
ABSO -LUTELY NOT!!
OH I SEE -
そろそろ起きろよ バス来るぞ



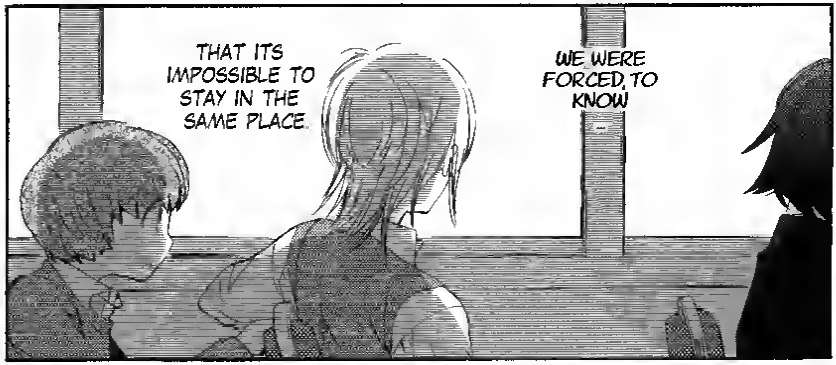



THE MOMENT OF RIGHT "NOW" IS INSTANTANEOUS

AND IS ALWAYS MOVING.

NAKA -MIYA -SAN
SUDDENLY RETURNED TO HER HOME COUNTRY.

EVEN THOUGH I WROTE THIS FOR HER


THAT ITS IMPOSSIBLE TO STAY IN THE SAME PLACE.
WE WERE FORCED TO KNOW

HAHA, I FOUND YOU
THAT'S WHY ...
LUNCH BOX CHECK TIME!
IT'S IOKAWA -KOUHAI'S -
HUH?
I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK!
I DIDN'T THINK WE'D EAT KARADA -CHAN'S EGG ROLLS AGAIN
I THOUGHT IT WAS "OUR EGG ROLLS ARE LIMITED TO SALTY ONES THAT HIRONII LOVES!"
AREN'T THESE SWEET ?

WE'RE ALL GOING IN OUR OWN
DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.
MINE ARE JUST THE LEFTOVERS
THESE DAYS, THAT'S HOW THEY ARE

ASATTE NO HOUKOU
BY YAMADA J-TA
OMAKE

translator: shirokuro
editor: tsutsuihou (Today's After)

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THE SALTY EGGROLL THAT "SOMEONE" LIKES
AH!
THEY'RE SALTY AGAIN
ヒロ兄のお弁当
PLEASE DON'T EAT THEM!
BUT -
I WONDER WHY -
EGG ROLLS ARE MY SPECIALTY!

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I MAKE THEM
THEY DON'T TASTE —
EXACTLY AS THEY DID BEFORE.
SO WE'LL BE GOING HOME NOW.
BUT IF YOU NEED ANYTHING GIVE US A CALL. WE'RE ONLY 20 MINUTES AWAY BY CAR.
SHOULD WE MAKE DINNER BEFORE WE LEAVE?
NO?
OKAY —

TODAY IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET.
HOW SHOULD I ... START OUR RELATIONSHIP?
ARE YOU —
キュン!
HUNGRY?
UH —
I'M OKAY.
YES.

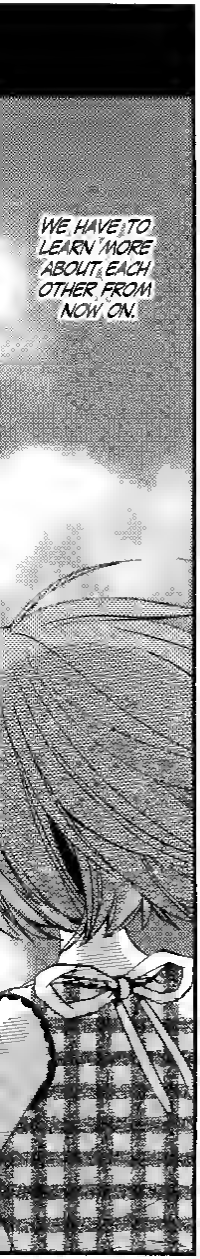
LET'S EAT SOMETHING
I DON'T WANT HER TO EAT COLD LEFTOVERS.
AM I... HUNGRY?
ヒマ ヒマ
BUT...

MOM'S LEFTOVERS ...
MAYBE I CAN AT LEAST MAKE EGG ROLLS
I DIDN'T HAVE AN APPETITE ALL DAY.

I SAID AT LEAST ...
BUT I WONDER IF I CAN EVEN MAKE EGG ROLLS ...
JUST GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES
SHOUKO ALWAYS SAID I WAS LAZY.
I WOULD WEAR MY CLOTHES STRAIGHT FROM THE HANGER AFTER PUTTING THEM OUT TO DRY.
I NEVER REALLY DID HOUSEHOLD CHORES.
WHEN I WAS OVER IN AMERICA ...
I'VE ONLY FOLDED HANDKERCHIEFS WHEN I HELPED AROUND THE HOUSE.
HE CAN COOK!
HIRO ONII-CHAN IS AMAZING.
WOW!
HIRO ONII-CHAN YOU CAN COOK!!?
I HAVE TO HELP
UMM ...

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SO HELPLESS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
UHHHM
SUGAR
SUGAR?
IS IT THE PINK ONE?
VERY GOOD AT COOKING EITHER
BUT SHE WASN'T ...
I'M SORRY
I'LL CALL YOU
ONCE THINGS ARE SETTLED A BIT
IT'S READY!
I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING.
I DIDN'T KNOW ...
AND DRINKS
SHOULD I GET THE PLATES OUT?
OH, THERE WAS JUICE OVER THERE

ちゃんとうまくできたと思うけど…
そわそわ
そわそわ
REALLY? GREAT
MY TURN TO EAT
IT'S --
VERY GOOD!
すぅ
THANK YOU HIRO ONII-CHAN!


WE HAVE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EACH OTHER FROM NOW ON.

I SEE, THE EGG ROLLS THIS GIRL LIKES ...
に。
CRAP, IT WAS SALT?
あんまーくれなくてよかった…
BUT SHE SAID THEY'RE GOOD
THEY'RE SALTY
!

SALTY.

THE EGG ROLLS ONIICHAN MAKES ARE ...
にっ
への
NOTHING I ATE ALL DAY HAD ANY TASTE.
ぱく
ぱく
BUT THE EGG ROLLS ONII-CHAN MAKES ARE TASTY

I LIKE THEM...
TO BE SWEET...
HMM?
何ですか
あ!
!

AFTER EATING THE SALTY EGG ROLLS.
NOOO!
DON'T EAT THEM ALL!
THEY'RE FOR HIRO-NII!
THIS IS WHAT I THOUGHT...
HAHA, I ALREADY ATE THEM!
おぉ〜

HUMANS ...

LIVE IN THE "PRESENT."

BUT ARE UNABLE TO FEEL THE "PRESENT"

EVERYTHING WE SEE AND TOUCH BECOMES THE PAST THE SECOND WE SEE AND TOUCH THEM.

THE ACTION OF TRYING TO LOOK AND TOUCH IS OUR ATTEMPT TO KNOW THE FUTURE.

AND WE ARE UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE FUTURE, WHICH ALWAYS REMAINS UNKNOWN, BUT FULL OF POSSIBILITIES.

THE PAST IS FIXED BASED ON EVERYTHING WE'VE DONE AND NOTHING CAN BE ERASED.

BUT WHEN WE
DECIDE TO MOVE
FORWARD
...

THE "PRESENT"
DEFINITEL EXISTS
RIGHT UNDER
WHERE WE STAND.

ASATTE NO HOUKOU
BY YAMADA J-TA
OMAKE

translator: shirokuro
editor: tsutsuihou (Today's After)

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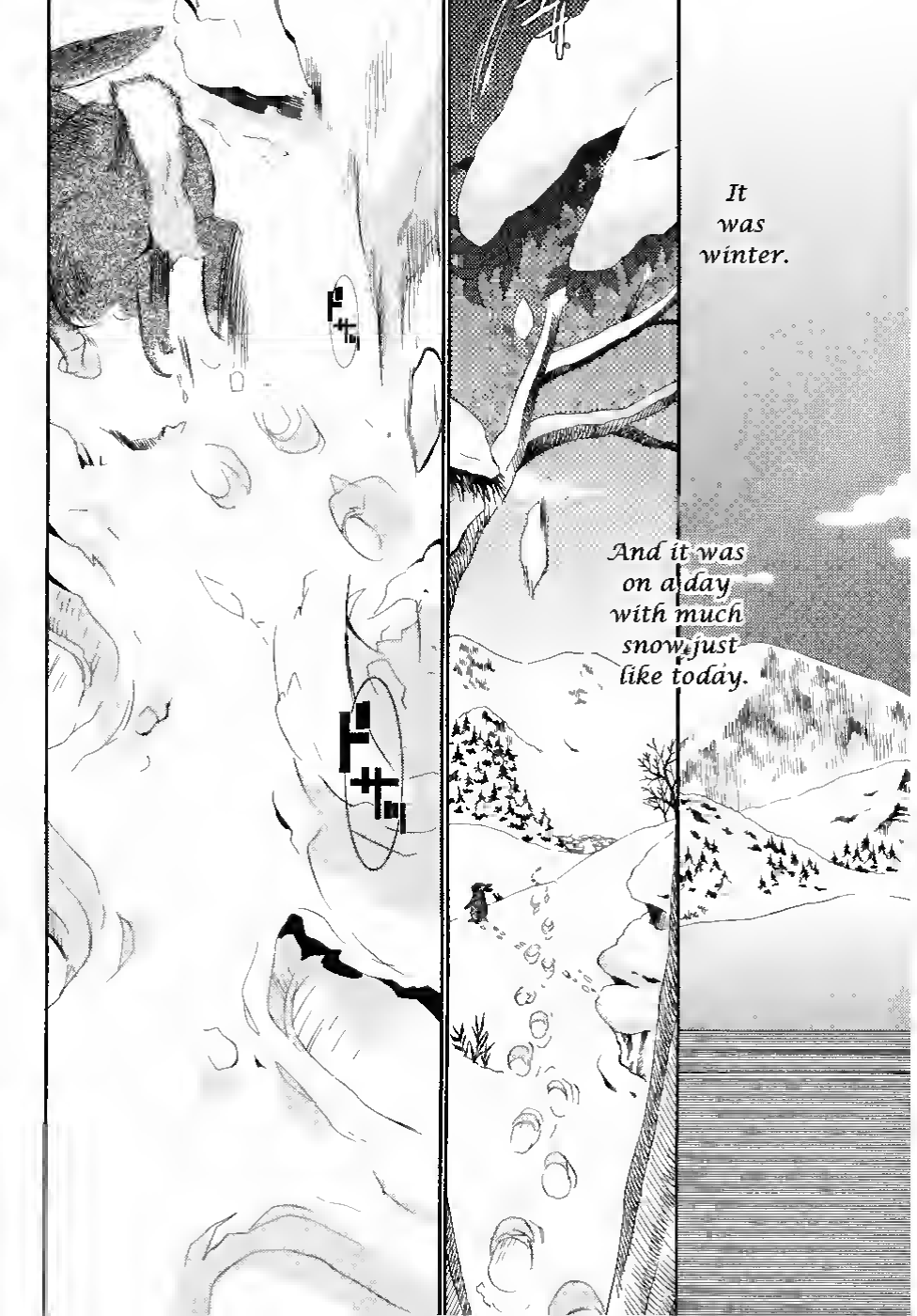
EXTRA CHAPTER: YAMAGAMIZUKA

DID EVERYONE GET A PRINTOUT?
WE DIDN'T BRING OUR BACKPACKS, STUPID
OH YEAH
HEY, CAN WE GO HOME AFTER WE MAKE THIS?
HEY AMINO, DID YOU GROW AGAIN?
WOW! YOU'VE BEAT 5 MORE PEOPLE IN ONE YEAR!
OKAY EVERYONE SETTLE DOWN

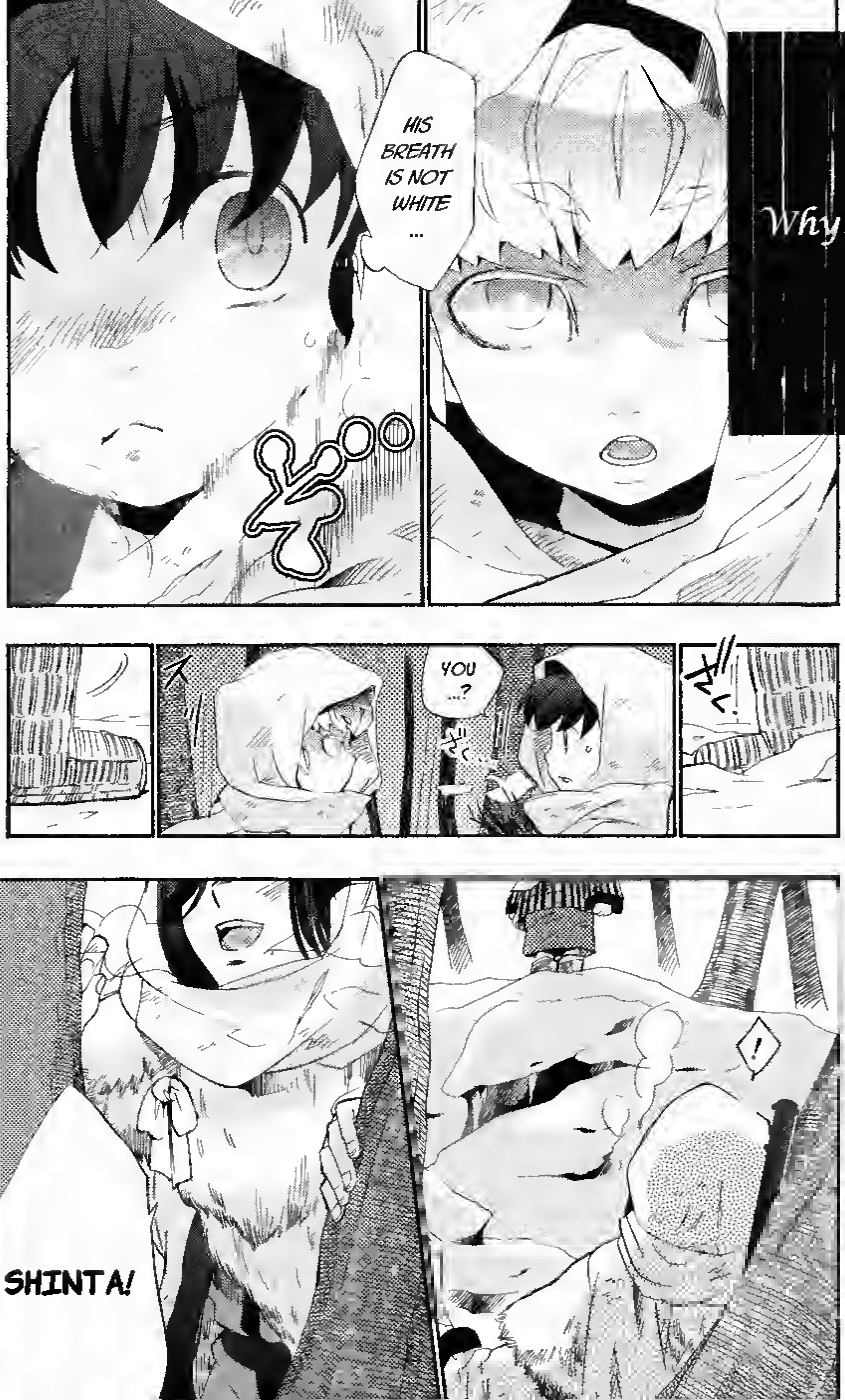
TODAY'S FREE STUDY IS TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR LOCAL AREA
HEY, IT'S YUSUKE'S GRANDMA!
HEY! BE QUIET!
EVERYONE LISTEN UP!
LET'S HEAR STORIES FROM OUR GRANDMOTHERS AND GRAND-FATHERS
QUIET DOWN SPIRITS
This story is from long, long ago.
WHAT!
WE'RE NOT KIDS
BE QUIET!


It was winter.
And it was on a day with much snow just like today.

ヒュウ…
ヒュウ…
ヒュウ…
ぶわっ

What are you doing?

I'M GOING TO BURN THEM.
I'M GOING TO DRY THEM AND USE THEM FOR FIREWOOD
Why burn them?
WHO ARE YOU?
Why are you picking up those branches?
BECAUSE I'M COLD
Is it bad to be cold?
IT'S BETTER TO BE WARM
It's better to be warm?


HIS BREATH IS NOT WHITE ...
Why?
YOU ...?
SHINTA!

Warmth is
I GOTCHA...!
OOPS?
!

I MADE A MISTAKE
MOM! I'M OVER HERE!
OOPS
YOU'RE WEARING THE SAME THING SO I GOT CONFUSED
WHO'S THIS?
HE'S NOT FROM THE TOWN IS HE?
I DON'T KNOW HIM!
YOU MAY NOT, BUT YOU TWO WERE SPEAKING.. YOU'RE FRIENDS NOW
HERE COME WITH US I HAVE SOMETHING WARM FOR YOU

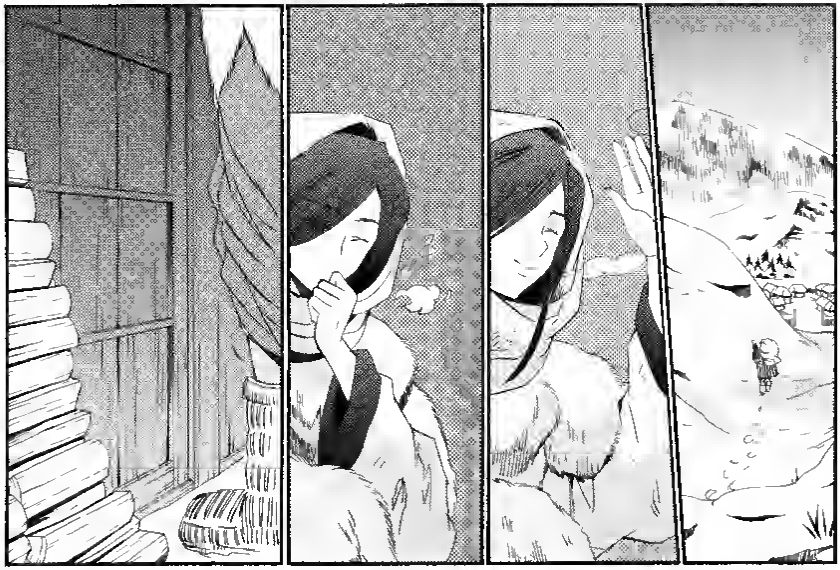
AREN'T YOU COLD? COME CLOSER
HE'S WEIRD, HE SAYS HE LIKES THE COLD
THAT'S SILLY
HERE YOU GO
SORRY, IT'S A LITTLE SMELLY

IT'S HARD TO TAKE OFF ALL THE FUR
MOM, SOME MORE
SO IT SMELLS A LITTLE RAW...
OKAY

AFTER YOU EAT THIS, YOU SHOULD GO BACK
IT'S GETTING DARK.
OK.

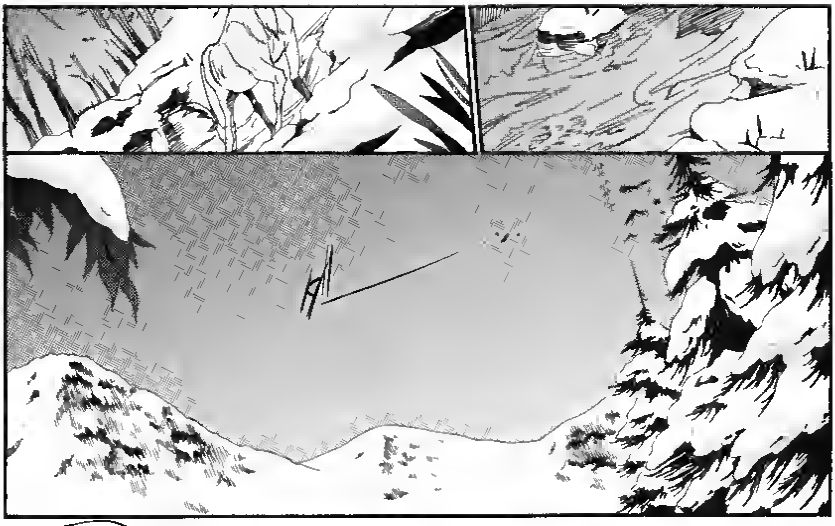
WHAT EXCUSE DID YOU USE TO GET OUT TODAY?
I SAID I'M GATHERING FIREWOOD
IS THAT SO?
HOW MUCH DID YOU GATHER?
THAT MUCH!
GIVE ME YOUR HAND
YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE IF YOU BRING BACK ONLY THAT MUCH WOOD
TAKE THIS TO THE HEAD OF THE VILLAGE
HE IS COLLECTING THESE ROCKS

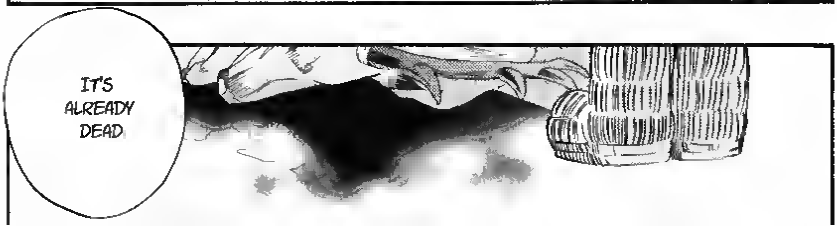
IT'S A WISHING STONE RIGHT?
IT'S PRETTY
IF I MADE A HAIR PIECE WITH THIS IT WOULD BE NICE
THEN I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU!
THEN I'LL LOOK FOR MORE
OK!
NOW GO HOME
I'M GOING TO WALK HIM TO THE HILLS
YOU CAN STAY HERE UNTIL YOU'RE WARM
WHEN CAN I SEE YOU AGAIN?
JUST WATCH OUT AROUND THE MOUNTAINS
I'LL SEND YOU ANOTHER SIGNAL
ムーさま



カリタ。
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING
BY THE WAY

ひゅっ!




IT'S ALREADY DEAD

ARE YOU A MOUNTAIN SPIRIT?
I HAVE TO ASK FOR A FAVOR ...
IF YOU ARE ...
SO I WANT TO ASK YOU DIRECTLY FOR HELP
HEY
BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WISH THEY DON'T COME TRUE
THESE ARE WISHING STONES THAT ARE SAID TO GRANT WISHES
Impossible.
IT'S THAT MIDDLE HOUSE THERE ..
CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING ...?
I WANT TO SEE MY CHILD EVERYDAY
EVEN NOW

That village is very strong.
There is a risk that the balance will be thrown out of control.
I SEE ...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
The human village has a spiritual barrier.
We cannot enter it from the mountains.

If seeing him is enough ...

キュルキュルキュル
ピタ。
ヒッ…
？
！

HE LOOKS WELL.
GOOD.

MY HEART
IS VERY WARM.
YES, VERY.
WHEN-EVER I SEE HIM...

Is that ...
"warm" ?
hm?

Your heart?

I WANT TO.
THANK YOU
SO COME TO MY HOUSE
THANK YOU
THIS TIME I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING REALLY COLD
IT'S NOT THAT I CAN NEVER SEE HIM ...
LIKE THE OTHER DAY

HE MAKES EXCUSES ...
WHEN I SIGNAL HIM
AND WE SEE EACH OTHER FOR A LITTLE BIT
YOU ...
CAN'T GO INTO THE VILLAGE ...LIKE ME
I CAN'T GO IN EITHER

MY GRANDFATHER ACCIDENTALLY KILLED SOMEONE, MISTAKING IT FOR A DEER
AND THREE GENERATIONS OF HIS FAMILY WERE KICKED OUT
WE CAN'T RETURN UNTIL THREE GENERATIONS HAVE PASSED
AND I AM THE THIRD
MY SON SHINTA ...
IS ABLE TO LIVE IN THE VILLAGE

I'M SORRY..
IT MUST SMELL REALLY BAD, NO?
SO I'M HERE IN THE MOUNTAINS ALONE.
KILLING BEASTS AND SKINNING THEM EVEN THOUGH I DON'T HAVE TO.
.....
I'M GLAD.
YOU'RE A REALLY NICE SPIRIT, YOU ARE
SO...
WHY..

...ARE YOU IN THE FORM OF A CHILD?
COME OVER HERE.
WHY... DOES YOUR HEIGHT AND CLOTHING... RESEMBLE MY SON'S?
I'm cold.
That's why...
I want to know "warmth."

I want to touch it.
If the flame and the heart is "warm" ...
THE FLAME ...
...AND HEART ...
YOU SHOULDN'T.
IT'S BETTER YOU DON'T.
CANNOT JUST BE WARM.
パチ パチ
ヒュウウ...
AAHH ...
ヒュウウ
ガタ ガタ
ゴゴゴ

I DON'T WANT ANYTHING ELSE.
...AND LIVE TOGETHER.
THE ICE, THE ICE IS MELTING.
I WANT TO SEE HIM ...
What should I do?
What should I do?
I can't heal your sickness.
ACCORDING TO THE WOMAN ...
I KNOW A WAY ...
HE CAN'T ENTER THE VILLAGE.
BUT THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT IS OF THE MOUNTAIN.
IN ORDER TO TRADE THE SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN COLLECTED HANDFULS OF THE STONES.
THE HEAD OF THE VILLAGE HAS MEDICINE THAT CURES EVERYTHING IN HIS HOUSE.

THE WOMAN SAID ...

HE SHOULD ENTER AFTER HER SIGNAL ...

AND SHE WATCHED THE SPIRIT LEAVE ...

MOM, SHE'S CALLING ME.
SHE REMOVED HER DOOR AND BURNED IT.
WE CAN LIVE TOGETHER
OKAY, YOU CAN GO
OH YEAH ...

WAIT!
MOUN-
TAIN
SPIRIT
!!!
WAIT!
EVEN
IF HE
WORE THE
FUR...
THE SPIRIT
OF THE
MOUNTAIN
IS OF THE
MOUNTAIN.
THE BARRIER
STILL BROKE.
ゴゴゴ...
THE
SIN
...

SWALLOWED
THE VILLAGE.

I
...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNOW MY HEART ...
IT'S NOT WARM
IT'S LIKE BURNING MUD
YOU WOULD .
... MELT COMPLETELY ...?

THE WOMAN USED THE SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN TO DESTROY THE VILLAGE.
ONLY THINKING ABOUT LIVING WITH HER SON.
FROM THE REALIZATION THAT HE HAD BEEN FOOLED ...
OR FROM THE DESPAIR OF BEING LEFT BEHIND ...
OR FROM THE WARMTH OF A HUMAN HEART ...
HE DISAPPEARED ..
AND SPRING CAME TO MELT EVERYTHING

THAT IS ONE OF THE STORIES IN WHICH THE WISHING STONE AND THIS LAKE ORIGINATES.
THE WISHING STONE IS A STONE THAT GRANTS WISHES ...
BUT WHETHER A WISH REALLY WAS GRANTED ...
THAT IS A STORY FROM LONG AGO.
ASATTE NO HOUKOU 5 END

note:
Tnere was a page where one of the bubbles was left blank.
That's bow it was in the scan.

I have no idea wbat the stuff below says...